# MAINE FARMER.

AGRICULTURE, MECHANIC ARTS, LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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## The Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man


### *The Season and Crops of 1870.--I.*

**Characteristics of the Season.**

The season of 1870 has been one of the most remarkable we have had for nearly half a century. Excessive heat, absence of rain, and crops somewhat below the average, have been the prominent characteristics. The spring opened earlier than that of 1868 or 1869, and in marked contrast with each in respect to temperature and rainfall. The spring of 1869 was particularly noticeable for its low temperature and backwardness; that of the present year for its early opening and warmth. Farm operations generally were commenced two weeks earlier than in 1869. Nothing of any consequence was done at farming in 1869 until the 12th of May, a very heavy fall of snow—being very general throughout the State—occurring the first week of the month. This year, in many localities, the early crops were all in the latter part of April. The mean average temperature of the month was 44½ degrees, or about five degrees above the average of the same month (from observations at four different and distant points) for the past forty years. Average moisture 4½ inches. In consequence of the early opening of spring and the attendant warm weather, vegetation made an early start. Pasturage was very fair the first of May, and young cattle were turned away ten days earlier than usual. May was very favorable for farming operations, consequently work was performed much in advance of last spring. Planting was generally completed by the first of June. The average mean temperature of the month was 54 degrees. Plum trees were in blossom the 17th, and apple trees from the 20th to the 25th. The month was extremely dry, the average amount of rain and melted snow being somewhat less than two inches, observations being made at eleven points in the State. The month of June was much warmer than the average for forty years, the mean temperature being 68 degrees. With the exception of the present year, the warmest June for the past forty years was that of 1831, that year the average being 69 degrees. The rainfall for the month was a little over two inches. The first part of the month was very clear and dry, rainfall occurring during the latter part of the month coming in occasional showers, and being sufficient to keep the top of the ground moist enough to ensure the rapid growth of crops. The same general characteristics of the earlier months were also peculiar to July, the average rainfall for the month being but 2¼ inches, and the temperature 71 degrees, or four degrees above the average for the past thirty-six years. The rainfall was nearly two inches less than the rainfall of the period above stated, and by many the month was called the "hottest and dryest July ever known." So far as our records of observations extend, they bear out this statement. There were few cloudy or rainy days, and the work of haying, generally finished within the month, was little interrupted by dull weather or rains. Indeed, more wet weather would have been a welcome relief to farmers and all out-door laborers, the heat being intense, and labor consequently oppressive to an unusual degree. The prevailing wind during this month was from the soushwest. The month of August was also extremely hot and dry: the average temperature being 69 degrees—the hottest August within the past forty years, the mean temperature for that period being 65½ degrees. The rainfall was but a trifle over three inches. As a consequence of the severe drought, pastures became short, crops languished, and fires raged to an unusual extent, causing great damage. The 27th of the month there was a slight frost in many places, but not hard enough to do much damage to crops. The drouth and heat prevalent through the summer months, continued through September, the average temperature of the month (by reports of ten observers) being 60 degrees, or four degrees above the average of the same month for forty years. The absence of rain during this month was also as remarkable as its unusual heat, the average being less than two inches. Rivers were lower than before known since 1816, and wells and springs which were considered never failing, became completely dry. The effect of the long continued drouth was severely felt on crops and stock, the pastures failing to give their usual supply of feed, and rendering it necessary for them to be fed from the barn; and in many cases cattle were driven to rivers, and other places to obtain necessary water. There was a frost the 13th, the first to cause any injury to crops. Depending for our averages of rainfall and temperature upon the reports of the Smithsonian Institution, we cannot give the average of the State for the month of October. Prof. Fernald at Orono, records the mean temperature of the month 47½, and Mr. Blake at Winterport 49½, the latter calling the month "warmer than the average, with greater number than usual of fair days." The rainfall registered at Orono was 5½ inches, against 9½ inches in the same month last year. A severe gale occurred on the 18th, and the prevailing wind of the month was west. From the abstract of a weather record forwarded us by R. P. Thompson Esq., of Jay—kept by his father, now eighty-eight years of age—we find there were but thirty-two days on which rain fell from May 9th to Oct. 31st, viz.—six in May, seven in June, three in July, five in September, and six in October. Upon many of these days only a slight drizzle occurred, and on others a light shower. Mr. Lyman Lee of Foxcroft, records the same number of rainy days, viz.—five in May, five in June, five in July, four in August, five in September, and eight in October. Mr. Leonard Fisher of Charlotte, records twenty-six rainy days for the same period, viz.—five in May, two in June, three in July, six in August, four in September, and four in October. A comparison of the rainfall of the six months of the present year from May to October inclusive, with the same period in 1869 and 1868, is as follows: In 1868, the total rainfall for the time above specified was 25.97 inches; in 1869, 28 26 inches, and in 1870, 17.25 inches.

### *Woman Farming in England.*

The opening article in the last number of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, is a report on the prize farm competition for the magnificent prize—a hundred guinea cup—offered by Mr. Mason of Eynsham Hall, Witney, Oxfordshire. In addition to this prize, offered "with a laudable desire to promote the improvement of agriculture, and also if possible, to obtain from judges appointed by the Royal Society, a definition of that which constitutes good farming," the Royal Society, (in order to promote additional competition), offered two prizes of $250 and $175 respectively. There were twenty-one farms that competed for these prizes, all situated within the county of Oxford. The points involved in the examination by the committee, were "1st, general management with a view to profit; 2d, productiveness of crops; 3d, goodness and suitability of live stock; 4th, the management of grass land, and 5th, state of gates, fences, roads, and general neatness." The "Mason cup" was awarded to Mrs. Mary E. Millington of Ash Grove, Ardley. That our readers may obtain some idea of high farming in England, as practiced too by a woman, we give a few particulars of this farm. It consists of eight hundred and ninety acres, seventy being in pasturage, and the remainder arable land. The latter is chiefly a "thin brown loam, resting on stone brash, and the depth of the surface soil, all of which is of poor quality, sometimes does not exceed six inches." The crops were two hundred acres of roots, one hundred and twenty of wheat, and eighty of barley. The barley and wheat are sowed in drills, ten pecks of seed of each being used per acre. About seventy head of cattle are wintered in the yards; they have a small allowance of roots and a liberal amount of linseed cake. They are sold in the spring, and if they pay the cost of the cake consumed it is all that is expected of them. One thousand sheep—of the Lincoln breed—are annually wintered upon turnips and linseed cake. From eighty to one hundred pigs, and eighteen horses make up the farm stock. The farm is managed on what is known as the "four course rotation" i. e. 1st, clover and mixed grass seeds; 2d, wheat; 3d, turnips and seeds; 4th, barley—from which no departure has been made for the past seventeen years. The committee, in summing up their report of this farm, say: "Mrs. Millington's farm clearly proves that land in high condition is more capable of resisting the effect of bad seasons than when it is impoverished by overcropping, or out of condition for want of that fertilizing system which can alone restore the elements of productiveness. This state, however, cannot be attained by sudden or spasmodic efforts; and nothing but a series of years of high farming can produce such crops as those which Mrs. Millington's farm this year exhibits. Mr. Mason's prize has not been obtained by hasty preparation, but the well deserved honor which has been awarded to the tenant of the Ash Grove farm, has been won by years of clean cultivation and high feeding. The annual amount of Mrs. Millington's cake bill, £1,200, (about $6,000), is the great secret of her success. I believe that high feeding of the stock is the best and safest expenditure that a farmer can make at all times and in all seasons. The animals are benefitted, the land is enriched, and good crops are secured." This is ortholox doctrine, and as safe in our own country as Great Britain.

### *Editorial Notes.*

It will doubtless gratify our correspondent C. C. H, who communicated to the FARMER in June last an account of his method of swarming bees, to know that the article is copied and commended by the *Country Gentleman's* Magazine, (London, Eng.,) in its issue for October last.

Mr. R. P. Thompson of Jay, encloses us several apple tree buds in a forward state of development, and writes: "Have you or any of your numerous correspondents noticed the forward state of the buds on fruit trees? I have an apple tree (of an early variety) that stands in my garden, on which the buds are uncommonly large for the time of year; as forward as they usually are the first or middle of April. Should the coming winter be a hard one, I fear we shall lose some of our fruit trees. The cause of this forward state of the trees, I attribute to the long continued warm weather the present fall." If our subscribers or readers have noticed this peculiarity in their particular localities, we should be glad to be informed of the fact.

The early ripening of fruit, and the long "continued warm weather the present fall" mentioned above, is probably also the reason why apples of all kinds are now decaying so badly, and why many sorts not in eating until late in the winter, are now suitable for eating, and will probably not keep until the period at which they are usually in their best eatable condition. This is the case with the Ribstone Pippin, Pearmain, Baldwin, Hubbardstone Nonesuch, Bellflower, Tallman Sweet, and several other winter sorts which we have tasted recently.

Speaking of apples, reminds us to express our thanks to Mr. Daniel Waldron, of this city, for several varieties grown upon his trees the present season. Among them is something of a curiosity in the shape of a twin apple with both the stems and blossoms completely distinct. It is not unfrequent to find a twin apple with both blossoms growing from one stem, but they are quite rarely found with two perfect stems. In this instance the stems are half an inch, and the blossoms an inch and a half apart.

The premiums on crops at the Hancock Agricultural Society, at its last exhibition, were awarded to Alexander McCaslin of Surry, for corn and oats, and James A. Ginn of Orland, for corn.

### *An Interesting Question.*

Mr. H. G. Abbott of North Vassalboro', in a communication to the FARMER, asks if horses are injured by not lying down? and relates the following: "I have a carriage horse that met with an accident about three months ago, by having a shaft run into his breast, which inflicted an ugly and severe wound. While it was healing, on account of its soreness the horse refused to lie down in his stall, but kept on his feet till he recovered, which was in about four weeks. Previous to the accident, the horse being white in color, used to get quite dirty by lying down, and much time was spent in washing and grooming him. As soon as he recovered, I was induced to hitch him in a manner so that he could not lie down. For nearly three months he has been kept on his feet, and so far as I can discover, he has not been injured or suffered in the least on account of it, but on the contrary was never in better spirits or condition. By pursuing this practice, the animal is kept so clean that he is not washed as formerly, a great deal of grooming is saved, and no bedding is required. My object in making this brief statement, is for the purpose of inquiring whether there is any danger to grow out of this practice, should it be continued for any great length of time? Information on this point might be beneficial to others besides myself." Mr. Abbott has certainly raised an interesting question, and in the absence of any direct knowledge upon the point, and with no authorities to refer to, we solicit the opinions of our readers who are versed in "horse flesh," upon the matter contained in his query.

### *"Beautifying Country Homes."*

The above is the title of a "Handbook of Landscape Gardening," the letter press and many of the plans of which are the work of Mr. J. Weidemann, Superintendent of the City Park, Hartford, Conn. In the first part, the general principles of landscape embellishment are somewhat briefly stated, with directions as to the making and management of lawns; drainage; roads, walks and drives; the grading of lawns and grounds; fences, walls and hedges; the transplanting of trees and shrubs; the treatment of rock-work and water in ornamental grounds, with calculations as to the cost of improving, and the care and keeping of country places of different sizes. This portion also comprises a descriptive list of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs for planting, and the figures and references upon the plans tell exactly where certain trees and shrubs should be placed to produce the best effect. Something like eighty small but excellent wood-cuts illustrate this introductory portion of the book. The second part is devoted to plans of improved places including country homes, city lots, parks, public pleasure-grounds of small extent and cemeteries. There are twenty-four plans in this part of the book, seven of which occupy double pages. The plans given are not ideal ones, but those practically carried out—they are not the work of one mind, and running in one direction, but embrace the ideas of many of the first landscape gardeners in the country. While it is essentially a professional book, one adapted for landscape architects and not for the masses, it will still be found full of useful practical directions, hints and suggestions, and one that can be pursued with interest and advantage by any one who proposes to spend a hundred dollars in landscape embellishment.

The book is in quarto size, finely made up, and an honor to the great agricultural book publishing house of Orange Judd & Co., New York. For sale in Boston by A. Williams & Co., 135 Washington St

## Communications.

Reported for the Maine Farmer.

### *Market Farming and Gardening.*

*Abstract of a course of lectures before the students of the Maine State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, Fall Term, 1870, by James J. H Gregory, A. M.*

REPORTED BY G. E. HAMMOND, OF THE JUNIOR CLASS.

**Lecture VII.—Small Fruits.**

The strawberry is found growing wild in North America, South America, Europe and India. Any deep, rich soil which will produce good crops of corn, is well adapted to the cultivation of the the strawberry. A sandy soil will produce an early crop, but they will be small; it takes a good rich soil for nice berries. Clean cultivation is all that is necessary. The runners must be kept down by treating precisely as weeds. Manure that is not too rank should be used. A piece of ground should not be planted to strawberries, if it contains witch grass, red or white clover, or weeds of any sort, until they are entirely eradicated.

As a general rule, foreign grapes, strawberries and raspberries do not thrive well in this country; it is therefore bad policy to go into these varieties. There are only two foreign varieties that have grown well here, the Triomphe de Gand and La Constante. The fruit is not large, but gives general satisfaction. The La Constante has a good reputation; it should be cultivated in the hill. The hill system consists in cutting off the runners when they appear, and allowing the parent only to grow and bear. Give the plants good cultivation and if necessary, put a little earth around them. The advantage of the hill system is that you can prolong a bed of the plants for many years.

At the head of the best kinds to raise, stands Wilson's Albany, of which there are more than one hundred times as many planted as of any other kind. It is especially noted for its great productiveness, the good condition in which it can be transported, and its large size. The objections to it are, that it has a dull red color, and after the first one or two years, flags more than most berries.

The Hovey is a great favorite in the Boston market. It is easily taken from the hill. The Brighton Pine and Scott's seedling are large, but not of good color, and often unproductive. The Agriculturist is quite large, but does not do well on all soils. The Jucunda or Knox, No. 709, is a profuse bearer, and thought much of by some gardeners.

Berries do well on some soils, and not on others. All new fruits will do best in their early days, and on the ground where they were originated. If there comes a drought about the time of ripening, it will severely injure the crop, as at that time they take up a great amount of moisture.

Early in the spring is the best time for setting out strawberries. The plants should be well taken up, so as to secure all the fibres, lifting the roots out with a spade, and not pulling up with the hands. When the earth is dry, the roots should be dipped in mud to keep them moist. It is better to spread the roots out like the frame of an umbrella, and set them in a hole broad enough, with a small mound in the centre, on which the spread roots rest. The earth should be well settled about and packed slightly. The plants should be set no deeper in the soil than they were before transplanting. The vines should not be allowed to bear fruit the first year.

One mode of cultivation is to allow the vines to bear two years, then plow under, and after planting to other crops for one or two years, set again to strawberries. Another mode is to lay out in beds each six feet wide, with walks of two feet between. After two crops are taken from the vines, the middle section of the beds should be dug over, and prepared for the occupancy of the new manures for the next season's crop. The runners from the old strip will now speedily cover the space allotted to them. As soon as these are well rooted, the ground under the old vines should be dug up for their runners. In this way the stripes occupied by the plants are reversed every season, and the same plot of ground may be continued in a productive state many years.

For protection in winter, the vines should be covered one inch thick with fine horse manure, and this, six or eight inches deep, with coarse thatch or hemlock boughs. When strawberries are to be transported a great distance, they should have the hulls on, as they will not jam so badly.

As the productive qualities of strawberries depend on the presence of *stamens* and *pistils*, attention to this becomes important in selecting.

Strawberries are divided into two classes, one being termed perfect in which the stamens and pistils are fully developed, and possess the power of fertilization; the other is termed pistillate, in which the stamens are wanting. The former will bring its fruit to maturity; the latter needs to be planted with or near those having perfect stamens and pistils.

The average yield of strawberries round Boston is not far from one hundred bushels to the acre.

**Lecture VIII.—Succession Crops.**

It is a principle with market gardeners to obtain two crops of vegetables each year from every rod of land cultivated. The price of land of good quality, and situated conveniently for market gardening ranges all the way from $500 to $5000 per acre, usually, however, from $500 to $1000. Since there is so large an amount of capital invested, two crops are necessary to give profits. In addition to the profit made by cultivating the plants grown from the hot-bed, there is a large amount received by selling the young plants. Cabbage plants usually bring about 30 cents per hundred, and tomato plants from $1.00 to $1 50 per dozen.

As it is necessary to wash all roots carried to market, a wash-house is needed by the market gardener. This may be a separate building, or the basement of some other one may be used. In many cases hot-houses are used in place of hot-beds, the advantage of this arrangement is, that the workmen can do the necessary work under glass in a warm temperature, in the cold of winter. Winter gardens, adapted, as their names indicate, for growing vegetables all winter, are simply hot-houses on a large scale.

As a general thing market gardening is carried on upon land three years from the sod; a year, however, may be gained by plowing early in the fall to a slight depth, in order that the turf may partially decay. The first year the land should be planted to squashes or cabbages, and the second, to potatoes. The object is to get the ground is as finely pulverized condition as possible. The first crops usually grown on prepared land are cabbages, lettuce, beets, cucumbers, radishes, onion sets, spinach and turnips. These are followed by a second crop of squashes, celery, cauliflower, late cabbage or some of the herbs. The plants named for the first crop are by nature very early, while those of the second will grow and mature better in cooler weather. Early cabbage which has been started under glass, should be set out about the 20th of May. Squashes may be planted between the rows of cabbage; the latter will be out off before materially injuring the vegetables.

When horse-radish is planted among beets, the beds should be made a little oval. The beets should be drilled into the sides, and the ridges left upon which to plant the horse-radish, and should be about four feet apart on account of its bushy top. The roots are taken up in the fall, grated by machinery, and sold at a great profit.

Spinach is put in as early as the ground can be worked. The amount of seed should be 16 pounds to the acre. For a late crop it is sown in drills one foot apart about the middle of September, and is allowed to stand over until spring. If it is in exposed places, it may be covered with coarse hay or thatch.

Celery is started in open culture about the first of April. It should be started by seed, in beds for transplanting. When the plants make their appearance; thin to about six to the inch. As the plants grow, the top is nipped off so as to induce a stocky growth. For fall and winter use, celery is planted in July. The celery to be used in the fall months should be blanched or whitened before being sent to market. This is done by simply drawing the earth around the plant, and letting it remain a week or two. The objection to trenching is that you often get below the root soil. Never trench on a hillside as there is danger of the trenches filling with water. The profit on the celery crop is usually about $300 to the acre. The best variety is the Boston market; it should be planted in rows 5 to 7 feet apart, and one foot apart in the row.

Mr. Gregory gave the following statement of cost and profits of an acre of onions—as about the average:

| | |
|---|---|
| Interest on land, | $ 30 00 |
| Plowing, | 5.00 |
| Harrowing, cultivating and brushing, | 5 00 |
| Manure spread on land, | 100 00 |
| Second plowing and harrowing, | 8 00 |
| Another shallow plowing, | 5 00 |
| Raking, one man 5 days, at $2, | 10 00 |
| Four pounds seed, at $3.75, | 15 00 |
| Slide and wheel hoeing, 4 times, | 8.00 |
| Pulling large weeds, | 4.00 |
| Pulling the onions, | 4 00 |
| Raking over onions after gathering, | 4 00 |
| Carting to the barn to top, | 10 00 |
| Topping; 400 bushels at three cents per bush., | 12 00 |
| Marketing, | 45 00 |
| Picking up stones, | 2.00 |
| Wear and tear of utensils, | 5 00 |
| | $310.00 |
| One acre of land will yield 400 bushels of onions at $1.25 | $500 00 |
| | 310 00 |
| Which leaves a net profit of, | $190.00 |

**Lecture IX.—Recapitulation.**

The cost of producing an acre of cabbage is about $200. There will be about 4000 heads on an acre, which will sell, on at average, for 8 cents a head, leaving a profit of $120 per acre.

The stone mason variety is an early cabbage, has few waste leaves, and makes heads hard and sweet, ranging in weight from six to twenty-five pounds, the difference turning mostly on manure and cultivation. It is the standard drumhead cabbage in the markets of Boston and other large cities of the North, and is a very profitable variety, the gross returns from one acre reaching generally from $300 to $350. The rows should be three feet apart, and the plants from two to three feet apart in rows.

Cabbage greens are largely grown around Boston. The seed is sown broadcast at the rate of ten pounds to the acre. Seed of the Savoy cabbage is usually sown for this purpose. The young plants are cut off about even with the ground, when four or five inches high, washed and carried to market in barrels. The average price is $1 00 per barrel. Greens can be raised on a small scale for private use, from cabbage stumps remaining in the cellar. These can be planted where they will not interfere with other crops, about one foot apart, and in a short time will be covered with green shoots, which should be used soon after growing.

Squashes can be raised for about $100 per acre. The usual price at which they are sold is $25.00 per ton; the net income varies from $50 to $150 per acre. If seeds are planted that have been kept a long time, the plants will be earlier and have less top, than plants from new seeds.

The seeds of the parsnip, onion, carrot and a few other plants are not good after one year; the seeds of cabbage are good for several years. Peas and beans require about 5 cords of manure to the acre.

The profits of market gardening in which the principle crops are carrots, squashes and onions are about $125 per acre. The cost of raising a crop of potatoes in the vicinity of Boston is about $150 per acre, and as the price is not usually more than $2 00 per bushel, it is not there a very profitable crop. There is a great number of kinds from which it is hard to select the best. Breese No. 6 and the Early Rose are hard to beat. The Peerless is late, and not so good as Early Rose. The Early Goodrich is not well endorsed. The Gleason yields well, and does not rot. The Garnet Chilli is a nice winter potato. This is as truly a winter variety of the potato as the Baldwin apple is of that fruit. There is a certain chemical change which takes place in potatoes after they are put into the cellar, that renders them either better or not so good for use; hence varieties should be adapted to the season of the year.

The asparagus requires about ten cords of manure to the acre. Barn or stable manure is generally used—but well decomposed kelp is better. The profit on this crop is about $300 per acre.

The principle varieties of carrots are the Long Orange and Early Horn. The Long Orange is well adapted to garden or farm culture; it is of large size, specimens averaging 12 inches in length with a diameter of three inches at the top. This is the best kind to feed to cows. For coloring butter the Early Forcing Carrot is used, as it is of good color for that purpose. Carrots should be sown about May 25th, in drills six inches apart and 16 or 18 inches between the rows, and one inch deep. The amount of seed necessary is about one and a half pounds to the acre. Carrots may be kept over winter by placing them in a pit excavated in the earth, and covering them with earth or coarse hay. They are carried to market in boxes and barrels. The usual profit is $100 per acre.

For the Maine Farmer.

### *How shall Farmers best Improve their Farms?*

The question of how we may best improve our farms is a very broad one, and one that will not admit of a specific answer. If you were to ask me how I might best improve my farm, the same rule would not apply to each field. One may be heavy, one light; or one may be wet, and one dry; one a level plain, and one a side hill. As a general answer, I would say, sell no fodder, grain or roots; improve every available source of fertility about the house, barn, farm and roadside; see that no manure is wasted of any description, and that it is applied in the right place, and at the right time.

If you have level, moist fields, liable to winter or spring killing, get them well swarded over, with a large proportion of red-top, and then keep them in grass by top dressing with such fertilizers as you can get, muck or loam compost, alluvial deposits, dry or leached ashes, fish guano, or whatever you deem most suitable to your soil. If you have light fields which are free from stones and surface water, sow wheat with superphosphate, and twenty pounds of Northern New York clover to the acre; take off your wheat the next year, mow your clover for hay, and when the second crop is well in blossom, plow under and sow with wheat and plaster, and I will warrant your experiment to succeed. If you have an old field, completely worn out and nothing to manure it with, put just as many sheep upon it as can live, (give them grain in the last of the season to bring them to the barn in good condition), and in three years that field will be ready for the scythe again; for the sheep was said, three thousand years ago, to have a golden foot; and that foot has never suspended payment yet, at least so far as paying the land is concerned. If you have runs or swales in your fields, put a deep ditch through them and dump in your stubble rocks, and they will soon become the best part of your mowing. If you have a good wood lot, keep the cattle out of it, and cut clean as you go—always of course looking after the down wood. If you have an old orchard dying, scraggy and unsightly, cut down such as you deem past hope, take all the dead limbs from the remainder, and the dying ones too, if you can leave suckers instead; scrape the moss and rough bark from the trunk, dig the sod away from their feet and turn in the sheep, and in three years you will be surprised at the growth of wood and fruit. If your pastures are mossy on the knolls and green in the hollows, harrow them well and sow two bushels of plaster to the acre, and white and red clover on the knolls. What I have said is intended for good, honest, hard working farmers, who really wish for the solution of this question.

There is another class of farmers (?) to whom the foregoing does not apply, though I am happy to know that such do not abound in this vicinity. To such I would say, let alone your pipe and tobacco, get up earlier in the morning and go to work for yourself, doing just what you see needs to be done, and just as well as you know how. Don't hitch up your team two, three or half a dozen times in the week, to go to the village or some other place where loafers do congregate, don't spend a day to trade a dollar out of your neighbor, when you can earn it in half the time at home, and at the same time be improving your farm and your morals. Haul off your stone heaps, and not run the risk of breaking your mower and the first commandment at the same time next summer. Build stone wall for fence, and let your second growth stand for your descendants to warm themselves by. Have a good kitchen garden, and keep it well weeded; have a plenty of dry wood all the time; have plenty of grafted fruit the year round; have a heap of compost in process of decomposition all the time, and keep it deodorized with fresh loam and plaster; go without what you can't pay for; work steadily from early morn till dewy eve, at least five and a half days per week; have an agricultural, political and religious paper each week, and read them carefully evenings and Sundays, and after following this course five, ten or twenty years, if your circumstances intellectually, socially, morally and pecuniarily are not improved, you will be free to return to your present courses; but I believe you will be so thoroughly converted in that time as to be content to stick to it, and that your farm will in the meantime become so attractive that you will feel more at home on it than when loafing around the store or post office, to say nothing of the improvement in your wife's temper, by having you at home at meal time, and plenty of dry wood to cook the dinner with.

*Mt. Vernon.* D. H. THING.

For the Maine Farmer.

### *Entomological.*

MR. BRACKETT:—Enclosed find an object which I would like to know more about. I think it an insect, or a dead insect's shell, but I don't know what kind. It was picked up in a barn-yard some time ago, I think in September. Can you tell us what it is in FARMER? A. N.

The "object" was duly received, and proves to be the pupa-case of an insect. By the pupa-case is meant the shell which the insect throws off when it changes from the dormant or chrysalis state to the winged or perfect form. The insect to which it belonged, and was a part of the body or habitation, was technically the *Hypoderma bovis* or Bot fly of cattle. Farmers sometimes term it the screw-worm, and sometimes the back-worm because it is almost invariably found in the back of the animal.

These worms are found only on neat stock; they do not trouble sheep, hogs, or horses. They are well known in their larval state to every farmer and stock-raiser. They are most commonly noticed in the spring and early summer by the swellings or protuberances they cause upon the animal's backs and in which they are lodged. They can then be easily removed.

It passes through the regular stages or states of insect transformation: 1st, the egg; 2nd larva; 3d, the pupa; 4th, the perfect insect. The perfect insect is a fly about half an inch in length and of a variegated color, black and grey predominating. The abdomen is banded with white, black and orange. The larvæ when full grown is nearly an inch long, of a dark brown color when grown, but white when young. The pupa is a little less than the size of the larvæ, and is nearly of a cool black color, such as that sent. When the fly is ready to come forth out of the pupa-case, the top of the case comes off like a lid, which accounts for the shell or case you sent being open at the top. The pupa-case in fact, like some other insects is simply the dried up skin of the larvæ inside which is the newly forming fly or perfect insect.

The following is the history of this insect as near as I can learn from observation and the records made by others: The fly or perfect insect above described appear during the summer season from June to September, and the females, after pairing, lay their eggs in the backs of the cattle in the hair near or on the skin. The larvæ soon hatch from these eggs, and eat their way into the flesh of the animal, remaining during the winter. After entering the skin and flesh, they increase the size of their burrows, growing larger and living upon the matter formed by the inflammation caused. In this way they produce tumors or abscesses under the skin in the flesh, their burrows always running directly downward, with the posterior portion of the body, in which the breathing pores are situated, near the opening to obtain air. The mouth is at the lower end of the larvæ, and is furnished with minute suckers.

It is in this form and condition, or when nearly or fully grown the following spring, that they are commonly noticed, and can be easily removed by squeezing the surrounding parts. I have found them upon the backs of yearlings more frequently than on other cattle.

After the larvæ is fully grown, as just described, it works itself out of the burrow backwards through the opening, and falls to the earth, where in a few days it changes to the pupa or chrysalis—the third state—its dried up skin, forming a covering or pupa-case. In this case, imbedded slightly in the earth, they remain in a dormant state for several weeks, then the top of the case comes off, and the full grown and perfect fly comes forth, a description of which is given above. It was one of these empty cases you sent for identification. This fly, or perfect insect, lays its eggs as above described, and the insect continues to go through the same course, performing the great duty of perpetuation.

These insects do not seem to cause any permanent injury to the animals. The best way to remove them is to press them from their burrows with the thumb and finger. I have never seen them anywhere on the animal but in the flesh of the back, between the shoulders and hips, but have supposed the reason was because the eggs could not be easily dislodged from that position by the animal's rubbing. B.

*Belfast, Nov.* 1870.

For the Maine Farmer.

### *The Road Fence Question Continued.*

I am ready to acknowledge that there are advantages as well as disadvantages in a road fence. The one that shows itself to be greatest, is to those who wish to pasture the highway, and are *bound* to do so at all hazards, law or no law; turning in the road as soon as the snow is off, from one to three cows and horses, to run at will in neighbor's door-yards, and stables, and green fields, until mid-winter, making foul the first, and stealing their living from the whole, causing hard feelings, if not words between the parties which otherwise would be avoided. These very same individuals if they should discover an ignorant person using for the second time a three cent postage stamp would be greatly concerned in the matter, and even cause him to pay the fifty dollar fine for such offence, while they are liable to a fine of seventy-five cents for each and every day such beast is turned out to trouble his neighbor, making only from the first day of May to the last day of November, the round sum of $150 and interest for each animal. I am willing to admit that we should be lenient, and bear with the poor man, but I know of men who are worth their thousands, whose actions speak a use louder than their words, that they are bound to compel the poor farmers to fence pastures for their stock, and if a dog is set on the unruly brute by the person aggravated, he is called everything but a decent man. Is this justice?

Now for the disadvantages; and first of all is the expense, which has been shown up in former communications, and the amount of land taken up that might be otherwise better occupied. It is a noticeable and undenia le fact that the fences by the wayside are almost invariably crowded by the builders on either side of the ways, as near as will do, and not cause the same to be removed, leaving the roads so narrow that in winter the driving snow (on a large majority of our ways) fall in to the extreme height of and often rounding full above the fences, causing an immense expense in keeping them open during the winter, and owing to its great depth, rendering the roads for a long time impassable in the spring. Now were it not for such fence, there would have been no such inconvenience. Would it not be policy for all concerned so remove the road fences in all localities, especially over the hills, and even the valleys where the snow is liable to fill up in winter. By this means we should have much better roads, so far less expense to the community. What would be saved by this method would be sufficient to purchase, in five years, a parcel of land near each village, where those that were not able to procure pasture in common to the comfort of all concerned, and still have money in the treasury; or even take up a collection for the above purpose and most any reasonable man would subscribe freely, rather than have a nuisance about his premises year in and year out. More anon.

*Bridgton, Sept.*, 1870. SUFFERER.

### *Greenhouse Pests.*

The Mealy-bug and Red Spider as we hear from the best authority, will stand any amount of tobacco smoke, while Plant-lice (*Aphis*) are thus easily killed. The red spider, however, may be got rid of by exposing the infested plants to the rain, and the mealy-bug by a wash of aresylic soap, sufficiently diluted not to injure vegetation. Cresylic soap is a very useful agent for the destruction of many kinds of insects.—*Am. Entomologist.*

## Agricultural Miscellany.

### *How to make Good Butter.*

A few hints, gathered from experience, may benefit persons who encounter difficulties which accompany the management of milk for churning in the warm season. Heed not persons who counsel you to add saltpetre, alum, and other things. If possible, it should be put upon tables free from all admixture, excepting the required seasoning of salt. But where the quantity of cream is so small that it cannot be churned daily, the skimmings must be collected until a sufficient amount warrants the labor of churning; and all this must come in with the household work. The question then arises, how shall we keep the cream sweet, perhaps a week or more with the mercury above 90 degrees? When setting a fresh stone jar for the cream, put a large handful of table-salt in it, and then skim the cream and put it into the jar, which must stand in a cool place in a good cellar, well ventilated. The cream should be stirred every day. More salt may be added if necessary. The salt will keep butter from becoming strong. Sometimes a piece of charcoal may be added, well washed in cold water; and when ready to put in the next skimming, remove the charcoal carefully, and put it on a plate, and, when through with that operation, return the charcoal again. When the cream is ready to churn, put the charcoal in the fire, and next time start with a fresh piece. After the butter has come, put in some salt, and, if the well be an open one, let the butter down in the evening, and in the morning take it out and work it while hard. Butter made in this manner will be as delicious as sweet cream, and the butter-milk will make a fine pot-cheese.—*Boston Cultivator.*

### *Horse Shoeing.*

We think there has been less progress in the last twenty-five years in shoeing horses, than in any other occupation that can be named. We mean by the great mass of blacksmiths. There are a great many men who can nail on a shoe fast, add but few who can trim it as it should be, but the great mass of horse-shoers have failed to learn the first principles of their occupation. No man can understand thoroughly the anatomy of the horse's foot. The great mistake is made in attempting to trim the hoof to fit the shoe, whereas the shoe should be made to fit the hoof. Very little trimming is needed if the shoe is made right. The "frog" should never be touched by the buttress, if the foot is healthy, as nature has intended that to be the spring or cushion to first receive the blow when the foot is set down on the road, to guard the knee and shoulder from the concussion.

The outside of the hoof ought not to be touched by the rasp, save at the very edge, as rasping tends to thicken the hoof and make it coarse and clumsy. Shoes should be made as light as they possibly can to answer the purpose. Ordinarily they are one-third too heavy. A horse's hoof should be carefully cleaned every day, and oiling the hoof once or twice a week is recommended. If veterinary surgeons wish to confer a real and lasting benefit upon society, let them open schools to teach the art of horse-shoeing.—*Kansas Farmer.*

### *Housework for Girls.*

It is the law of God that no human being can have a sound, vigorous body, accomplish much physically, and enjoy long life, without good muscles. Though there is a variety of ways by which exercise may be obtained, yet domestic labor is best adapted to develop and strengthen the whole system. Within a few years much interest has been awakened upon the subject of physical exercise, particularly as connected with schools and seminaries of learning. Besides the out-door exercises and games, calisthenics and gymnastics have been introduced inside the school room, and are becoming a part of the regular exercises in many institutions. This is an improvement in the right direction—and is good as far as it goes—but it is entirely inadequate to meet fully the demands of nature.

No kind of exercise for girls is so well calculated as household work to develop all the muscles of the body—to do it in early life, and gradually under circumstances favorable to health generally. The girl and young woman must thus be trained year after year, otherwise she will never obtain that hardihood of constitution, that strength of muscle, that power of endurance; or in other words, that balance of temperament so essential to good health and happiness in all the social and domestic relations of life.—*Dr. Allyn.*

### *Liquid Manure.*

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* (W. Tyrone, Pa.) gives the following directions for making a liquid manure of great value for application to flower-beds, gardens, &c.

In this connection I will mention that I have used, for several years, a liquid manure which is very effective, in pushing on the growth of vegetables, strawberries, roses, grass, &c. My first test of it was the pouring of a stream from a watering pot across a piece of poor grass opposite a post which served as a mark. There was soon a distinct wave, as bold and as green as the line of a fairy ring. This season I show half a row of peas and half a bed of strawberries, very superior to the other half, to exhibit the value of the application: It is chiefly, I suppose, sulphate of ammonia, and is made thus:

To one gallon of stale urine (at least one week old) in a deep wooden vessel or crock, add two ounces of sulphuric acid. Next day put in a couple of ounces of chalk or lime, to take up any acid remaining free. Stir. Put a pint of this into a pail of water, and use once or twice a week on growing plants, and preferably when the ground is wet, as it diffuses then among the feeding points of the roots better.

### *Difference in the Quality of Eggs.*

The *Journal of Agriculture* says, though most farmers keep fowls and raise their own eggs, there are many who have not learned the difference there is in the richness and flavor of eggs produced by well-fed hens, and those from birds that have been half starved through our winters. There will be some difference in the size, but far more in the quality. The yolk of one would be large, fine colored, and of good substance, and the albumen, or white, clear and pure; while the contents of the other will be watery and meagre, as in the parent fowl, to properly carry out and complete the work nature has sketched. In order, therefore, to have good eggs, the fowls should be well fed, and also provided, during the months they are unable to come to ground, with a box containing an abundance of fine gravel, that they may be able to grind and prepare their food for digestion. Of eggs, those from the domestic hen are decidedly the best, but those of ducks and geese may be used for some of the purposes of domestic cookery.

### *Ashes a Specific for Fruit Trees.*

Dr. George B. Wood, of Philadelphia, has communicated to the American Philosophical Society, of which he is President, the results of experiments made by him, which indicate that unleached wood ashes applied around peach and apple trees, give them renewed life and activity, and greatly promote vigorous bearing. Decaying trees have been wonderfully stimulated into healthy growth, by digging four five inches deep around the base of the stem, scraping away the worms, and filling the hollow thus made with fresh wood ashes. This was done in the fall of 1868, and the following spring they put forth bright, green leaves, and bore a crop of fruit far exceeding anything they had done previously. All of his orchards so treated, give promise of great crops of fruit also this present season.

### *Home of the Jerseys.*

The area of the island of Jersey is about 28,717 English acres, it being 11 miles long by 6½ broad; population in 1861, 55,613, averaging about two persons per acre. The land around the south shore rents for £9 ($45) per acre; two or three miles distant, £6 to £7; while skirting the more distant coast, £4 to £6. The farms vary in size from 20 to 30 acres, there being but few above the latter. Cattle and horses are tethered in Jersey, as nothing is allowed to run loose; pigs are kept in walled yonn

# The Maine Farmer.

**Augusta, Saturday, Dec. 3, 1870.**


PROSPECTUS FOR 1871.

VOLUME XXXIX.

## THE MAINE FARMER

Will enter upon its Thirty-ninth Volume on the 10th of December, 1870,

ENLARGED AND IMPROVED,

By the addition of several columns of Reading Matter, and a new and complete typographical outfit, thus making it one of

**The Largest and Handsomest Agricultural and Family Papers**

in New England, and more useful and valuable

**TO MAINE READERS**

than any other paper of its class published in the country.

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Its digest of

*DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN NEWS,*

and its selection of useful and entertaining

LITERARY AND MISCELLANEOUS READING

**For Old and Young,**

Will be carefully and conscientiously collected, corrected and arranged to meet the needs and tastes of its readers and the requirements of a first class Agricultural Journal.

**THE CATTLE MARKET REPORT**

of Brighton, Cambridge and Medford, are sent us by telegraph, and we are thus enabled to furnish our Maine readers with the prices of stock and other transactions of those markets at least TWENTY-FOUR HOURS EARLIER than any other paper in New England.

The columns of the FARMER will also be frequently embellished with

**Illustrative Engravings,**

of Animals, Fruit, Plants, and other objects of interest to our readers.

The Publishers and Editors will spare no expense or effort to deserve a continuance of the generous support which the MAINE FARMER has always received, and to entitle it to the increased regard and confidence of the People of Maine.

They have have recently leased and occupied a larger and more commodious printing establishment, and filled it with new machinery and material, including a new

COTTRELL & BABCOCK CYLINDER PRESS

the best printing machine manufactured in the country, at an outlay of more than

*FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS,*

and additional expense will be incurred in completing their arrangements for the proposed enlargement and improvement of the paper.

**THE TERMS OF THE FARMER**

in its enlarged form, notwithstanding the largely increased cost of publication, will remain as before, viz.:

**Two Dollars per annum in advance,**

or Two Dollars and Fifty Cents if not paid within three months of the date of the subscription.

**AGENTS OF THE MAINE FARMER,**

and all Postmasters in the several towns in the State and British Provinces, will be furnished with a sheet containing this Prospectus for the new volume, and they will confer a favor on the Publishers by presenting it to the people of their vicinity and soliciting subscriptions for the paper.

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

AUGUSTA, Sept. 22, 1870.

### *Special Notice to Subscribers.*

The great expense we are incurring for the proposed enlargment and improvement of the FARMER, renders it necessary for us to commence our New Volume with as large a number of advance paying subscribers as possible. We have many names upon our list who are in arrears for the paper for one, two and three years—some of them for a still longer period. According to our published terms, these delinquent subscribers are charged at the rate of $2.50 per annum, which they are legally and morally bound to pay. We wish to make them a proposition, which we think all of them will regard a liberal one, and of which we trust they will take immediate advantage:

*All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of $2 per year, and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance.* **This offer to stand open until the 1st of January, 1871.** *All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents, previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.*

### COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. F. I. SMALL will visit Franklin county during the months of November and December.

Mr. J. F. NUTT is now in Washington County.

MR. V. DARLING is now canvassing in Cumberland county.

### *To Agents and Postmasters.*

The thirty-eighth Volume of the *Maine Farmer* ends with the present number, and the new Volume in its enlarged form will commence next week. Our local agents and postmasters will confer a favor by forwarding the names of all new subscribers to the paper in season to commence with the first number of the Thirty-ninth Volume. We are now constantly receiving generous accessions to our list which we have no doubt will be largely increased on the appearance of the paper in its improved form.

### *The Educational Association.*

The annual meetings of the Maine Educational Association are designed far the discussion of principles and theories. Let no one, therefore complain that the lectures and discussions, whose subjects we have reported, are lacking in practical character. The work of reducing approved theories of education to practice belongs to the County Institutes. Bearing this in mind, we can but approve in general the tone of the discussions in the recent meeting. There was an evident conviction in the minds of the speakers that there was room for progress, that they, as educators must not be contented with the situation of today, but must be actively striving to sift out the bad from our educational system, to save all that is good in it, and supply its defects as fast as the advance in human knowledge will permit. There was further evident an earnest devotion to the cause, that is the best augury for the future of the schools in their hands. Certainly there is heart in this work, when we see such a considerable number of teachers drawn together at their own expense to discuss the principles on which their work should proceed.

The main fault in the recent sessions was a disposition to receive the theories of the several speakers without question. Had those who introduced the various topics stated their views more concisely, and had the general discussions partaken more of the character of sharp criticism of the arguments presented, the benefit derived from the meeting would have been greater. There is nothing like free, unsparing criticism, to eliminate from a lecture those portions that are erroneous or immaterial, and bring out in strong relief whatever truths it may contain.

We think the papers read were not altogether free from error; yet to listen to them was to become profoundly impressed with the magnitude of the interests dependent upon a proper education of the young of all classes. There is no problem of greater concern to every member of society than that of the training of the mind at that period of life when, more than at any other time, it receives those impressions that are to determine its character, and the character of the influence it shall exert on the community in which it is to become an active power.

The State has lately taken a decided step forward by her legislation in regard to the public schools; and her system now stands on as good a basis as that of any state in the Union. Let us take no backward step. Let the Legislature treat our educators in a liberal spirit; and let no attachment to the theories, modes and practices of the past block the wheels of progress.

☞ We inadvertently omitted to state last week, in connection with the report of the Kennebec Teachers' Institute, that Gen. Henry Boynton, of this city, United States Pension Agent, offered two prizes to the teachers who should pass the most satisfactory examination. About sixty teachers were examined. The first prize, a five dollar gold piece, was given to Miss Juliette Stanley of Winthrop; and the second, a fine gold pen and stock, to Mr. J. D. Smith, of Monmouth.

☞ The last session of the forty-first Congress commences on Monday next, and the members of the two Houses are gathering at the Capital. Speaker Blaine left home on Monday last for Washington, and will be followed in a few days by the remaining members of his family. Hon. Hannibal Hamlin passed through this city on Monday, on his way to Washington. Senator Morrill, although gradually and certainly improving in health, will not probably feel strong enough to make the journey and take his seat in the Senate for several weeks.

MAINE STATE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION. Last week we gave our readers a summary of the proceedings of this association at their *fourth* annual meeting recently holden in this city, up to noon of the second day of the meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 22nd. The following is a summary of the proceedings for the remainder of the session:

The afternoon exercises of Tuesday began with the discussion of the question, "How shall a teacher best impart moral instruction?" Prof. F. A. Allen, who opened the discussion, deprecated the attempt to teach morality by any formal system, and thought that the most successful teacher of morals would be one whose precepts came from the heart, and were illustrated by his daily life and conduct, and who allowed circumstances to determine when, where and how he should give instruction. The subject was further discussed by Messrs. True, Stetson, Barrell, Fletcher and Stone. Mr. Barrell advocated the use of a set time for inculcating the great moral truths. Mr. Stetson suggested the use of mottoes upon the blackboard, where all the children can see them. Several of the speakers urged the Bible as the basis of all morality.

The committee appointed to nominate editors of the Maine Journal of Education for the ensuing year, reported the following list: A. P. Stone, Portland; W. H. Lambert, Augusta; Prof. Edward W. Hall, Waterville; A. A. Woodbury, Gorham; C. M. Fernald, Houlton; N. A. True, Freedom; C. C. Rounds, Farmington; G. T. Fletcher, Castine; Thos. Tash, Lewiston; Edward S. Morris, Biddeford; Miss Eudora Sanford, Lewiston; Miss Olive A. Pond, Lewiston.

Mr. C. C. Rounds, Principal of the Normal School at Farmington, gave a scholarly and thoughtful lecture on "Discipline," which he defined to be *the training of the powers to their most effective use.* The objects of discipline are, first, to give perfect results; second, to husband power; third, to bring in a higher order and a wider range of ideas and thoughts, as the efficient cause of human activities. Among the practical suggestions dropped in the course of the lecture were these: that we should make use of all means, such as short hand writing, for the purpose of husbanding mental energy; and that facts should not be studied in isolation, but in those interrelations that can alone give them significance and value.

In the evening the following gentlemen were appointed a commit ee to petition the Legislature for funds to defray the expenses of the Association. Nelson Dingley, Jr., of Lewiston; C. C. Rounds, of Farmington; A. P. Stone, of Portland.

A discussion followed on "Self-improvement of Teachers." A. P. Stone, of Portland, who opened the discussion, urged the necessity of exertion on the part of the teacher to advance in knowledge and in culture, lest he fall into the ruts of a stereotyped routine. In the school he is brought in contact only with minds beneath him, and if he does not look for light in other directions he becomes dwarfed. Mr. Stetson thought a teacher must know something about everything. The associations of everyday life should be made to contribute to his stock of information. The discussion was continued by Dr. True, and Mr. W. H. Lambert of Augusta. The latter put a high estimate on the education which the teacher receives from his books.

Miss Pond of Lewiston recited, by request, two poems, in a manner that elicited praise.

Hon. John D. Philbrick, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Boston, who was announced to speak on the subject of "School Supervision," was not present, but wrote a letter of apology and encouragement.

State Superintendent Johnson introduced, and the Association adopted, a resolution of condolence on the death of Rev. Edward Ballard, D. D., the first president of the Association.

On Wednesday morning the Association chose the following officers for the ensuing year: President, C. C. Rounds, of Farmington; Vice President, Thomas Tash of Lewiston; Secretary and Treasurer, C. B. Stetson of Lewiston; Executive Committee, A. P. Stone of Portland, J. S. Barrell of Lewiston, W. J. Cothell of Calais, G. T. Fletcher of Castine, W. Johnson of Augusta, J. B. Webb of Gorham, J. H. Hanson of Waterville.

Prof. Cruttenden, of New York, then addressed the Association on "Sentential Structure." He exposed and ridiculed many of the weak points of the system of English grammar now in vogue, which he regards as essentially erroneous, pointed out the absurdities of our orthography, and showed further that he could not only find fault with the present teachings and practices, but could also propose a different system.

After the passage of resolutions expressing their satisfaction at the working thus far of the new school laws, in favor of compulsory attendance on public or private schools, in favor of a State educational tax of one mill per dollar, and conveying the customary compliments to officers, lecturers, reporters, railroads and the landlord who favored the members, the Association adjourned to meet again next May.

RUSSIA'S GRIEVANCE. Before the Crimean war of 1855, Russia had for many years been building up a navy on the Black sea, where she possessed the stronghold of Sebastopol, the siege of which by the French, English, Italians and Turks, cost the lives of more than half a million of men. Sebastopol and the other Russia ports on the Black sea, lying in the same latitude as the central part of Maine, are accessible at all seasons of the year. But compelled, for the sake of peace, to consent to that hard condition which excluded her navy from the Black sea, her ships of war could only sail from the ports of the Baltic, a shallow, tideless sea, whose waters are only brackish, covered every winter with ice in the harbors, and sometimes over most of its surface, and whose bed is filling up with sediment from the rivers at the rate of several feet in a century. There are, indeed, some ports on the White sea, but the miles of arctic navigation that separate them from the seas of commerce render them of little value. On the Baltic, Russia has two principal ports, Riga and Kronstadt. The latter is the seaport of St. Petersburg. Through it passes two thirds of the foreign commerce of Russia. Yet it has scarcely nine feet of water at the entrance of its harbor, and it is entirely closed with ice for nearly five months of the year. During these five months Russia has not a single harbor where her men-of-war can ride nearer to her capital than the eastern coast of Asia, four thousand miles distant as the bird flies, and twenty thousand as the ship sails—or if the Suez canal should be available, fourteen thousand miles only. Imagine the United States compelled to sign a treaty which should leave her for five months of the year no naval station except those on the Pacific coast.

That a power like Russia should long submit to such restrictions it was not reasonable to expect. There seems to be a general feeling of sympathy with her in the present crisis. It is time that she was freed from the odious condition. Even England, it appears, would have been quite ready to consider, with a favorable bias, a proposition to revise the treaty, and it was only the manner in which Russia attempted to accomplish her ends, assuming on her own responsibility to annul the oppressive parts of a compact into which she had entered with other powers, that provoked the sharp reply of the British cabinet.

☞ We learn from the *Washington Chronicle* that the house owned by Speaker Blaine, and occupied by him with his family during the Congressional season, was entered by burglars on Tuesday morning of last week, but they fortunately failed in their object of plunder. In the absence of Mr. Blaine and his family the house was in charge of a colored watchman, who hearing a noise, came down stairs and saw two men, who as soon as they noticed him, fled. An alarm was given, and the police quickly started in pursuit of the burglars, but failed to overtake them. On searching the house it was found that the entrance was effected by getting in one of the back windows. In the house was found an ugly looking dagger, a revolver, hat, and a pair of boots, the property of the burglars, and some envelopes scattered about in the hall. The property left behind will probably lead to the identification of the theives.

☞ Dr. Isscher Snell, for many years the standard and leading dentist of this city, whose removal West was mentioned by us some weeks ago, we learn has settled in business in Chicago, where he will find many old friends and former patrons and patients, who will doubtless be very happy to renew the social and professional relations which so pleasantly subsisted between that *lang syne*

☞ A meeting of Oak Grove Association is to be held at their School Room in Vassalboro' at 2 P. M., on Saturday the 10th inst.

TRIAL OF HOSWELL. The trial of Edward H. Hoswell, for the murder of John B. Ladin, in Hallowell, on the 19th of September last, commenced in this city on Monday P. M., 28th inst, Judge C. W. Walton presiding.

The prisoner had been previously arraigned during the present term of the Court, counsel assigned to him, and he had pleaded *not guilty* to the indictment against him. The counsel assigned the prisoner by the Court at his request were Eben F. Pillsbury and Artemas Libby, Esqs., of this city. For the State, Thos. B. Reed, Attorney General, and Wm. Penn Whitehouse, County Attorney.

At half past four P. M., Hoswell was brought by the Sheriff into Court, and placed in the prisoner's dock. Subsequently, however, at his request, he was allowed a seat by the side of his counsel. Hoswell is an American by birth, about forty-four years of age, of medium stature, black hair, dark complexion, with a heavy black beard. He was dressed very neatly in a dark broadcloth suit, and there seemed nothing in the expression of his face or general appearance to indicate any special depravity or bloodthirstiness of character. When first brought in he was much affected, and held a white handkerchief over his eyes, as if weeping; but after a short time he seemed to have completely recovered his composure, and watched the proceedings with intense interest.

The Clerk, by order of the Court, then proceeded to empanel a jury. Fifty-eight persons had been summoned, and the prisoner, through his counsel, Mr. Libby, in the exercise of his right, peremptorily challenged eleven of *of* the number, who were set aside. Nine others were set aside for cause. The jury, as finally empanelled, is as follows:—Gorham A. Chandler, Winthrop; Harrison Hanson, Readfield; Oliver S. Edwards, Monmouth; Abisha B. Fletcher, China; Isaiah Robbins, Vassalboro'; Enoch R. Leach, Monmouth; Wilson M. Hattins, Litchfield; John M. Plummer, Augusta; Hannibal J. Drake, Benton; Nathan Kimball, Winthrop; Hartson Hammond, China; John Barrows, Augusta. The latter gentleman was appointed foreman.

After the reading of the indictment by the Clerk, in which the crime and its manner of commission are set forth in formal, legal phraseology, Judge Walton instructed the jury in regard to their duty and responsibility in the case, and after some discussion between the opposing counsel, as to the proper time when a visit should be made by the jury to the premises where the crime was committed, the jury were given in charge of Deputy Sheriffs Stinchfield and Blunt, who were instructed to permit no communication with them by any person unauthorized by the Court during the continuance of the trial: At 7 P. M. the Court adjourned to Tuesday at 9 o'clock A. M.

Great public interest is felt in the trial of this case, and during the preliminary proceedings of Monday the court room was filled with spectators. Everything passed off in the most quiet and orderly manner.

On Tuesday morning the jury, accompanied by the counsel, Sheriff Hewins and other officers, visited the scene of the murder in Hallowell, making a thorough examination of the premises, and returning to the Court room about 11 o'clock. The prisoner was then brought into court, and soon after Mr. Whitehouse, the County Attorney, commenced the opening argument in behalf of the prosecution, occupying something over an hour in the delivery, and was listened to with the closest attention by all present, including the prisoner at the bar and his wife, who was seated in the Court room, closely veiled.

The argument was one of great clearness and ability, embracing a statement of the facts upon which the government will rely for a conviction, and calling the attention of the jury to the provisions of the statute relating to felonious homicide, its definitions and its penalties, and the principles of law relating thereto. The following statement of facts embodied in the opening argument of the counsel, will, perhaps, be of interest to our readers, as embracing, perhaps, every thing which will be testified to by the witnesses for the prosecution:

John B. Ladin, the deceased, had resided in Hallowell more than 20 years, and at his death was 44 years of age. He was a person of feeble constitution, and had made his regular business that of a barber during the greater portion of the time that he had resided there, but being a person of great industry and some mechanical skill, he had employed many spare hours in repairing furniture and making picture frames. His place of business was upon Water street, which you have carefully examined this morning, the front part being a barber-shop and the back part fitted up as a little work room. His residence was at the corner of Academy and 2d streets, one quarter of a mile in a south westerly direction from his shop. His calling as the world goes was not high, but he enjoyed a respectable social position. He was esteemed for his fidelity in all the relations of life. His family consisted of a wife and three little boys, of the ages of 14, 11 and 8 respectively. He had been gradually acquiring a little property and was constantly adding something to the comforts of his home. He was a person of almost childlike simplicity, and took a peculiar pride in calling the attention of friends to all the new purchases he made. He was a person of remarkably regular habits, being at home a few minutes past 9 o'clock every evening except Saturday, when he was always in his shop till 11 o'clock, or thereabout. During the summer season and early fall he kept no fire in his shop; he was in the habit of bringing warm water from his house in a pail, as he necessarily used it in his business. He acquired the habit of going through the back yard, which you examined this morning, to his back door. From that little work-room, where he was in the habit of hanging his coat on the hooks, it was 40 feet nearer to Perley's Lane than to come out of the front door and around the saloon which you examined. And yet, during all the period when he had no fire in his shop it often became necessary for him to use one in his business of repairing furniture or making picture frames. He had been in the habit of running across the street to his friends who kept fires that he could use for that purpose.

The prisoner and his wife took up their residence in Hallowell in April last; they had previously boarded in this city, where the prisoner himself was at work, and still continued to work for the F. & K. R. R. Co., after they moved to Hallowell; they rented two rooms in the building adjoining Mr. Ladin's barber shop—bedroom and Mrs. Hoswell's sitting room, including a little bed-room where Mrs. Hoswell's son, Charles Smith, child by a former husband, had slept when the ex; they took their meals at a boarding place in another part of the city of Hallowell. Mrs. Hoswell advertised as a cloak and dress-maker, and employed her time in that business. Thus they remained till last July. The prisoners relations with his wife were characterised by an extreme jealousy that displayed itself and had displayed itself at various times during the nine years of their married life, in acts of extreme cruelty and violence. At that time by reason of a suspicion of circumstance in the conduct of his wife, a suspicion of impropriety on her part, which, in fact, he afterwards acknowledged under solemn circumstances to be unfounded, as he subsequently learned; became violently enraged against his wife, tore and burnt up her most valuable clothing, declaring that he had a right so to do, had done it before; abandoned his wife the next day; sold all the furniture which he had in those rooms; expressed a determination not to live with her again; published a notice under date of July 21st, in the *Kennebec Journal*, forbidding all persons to harbor or trust her on his account, obtained for himself a new boarding place in Augusta, and came here to reside. Very soon after, however, he began to visit his wife in Hallowell, where she still remained in these same rooms, with her little son who had come after her husband had abandoned her, for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation; and although she persistently refused to come to any formal arrangement or agreement to live with him again, he continued to visit her at different times, more or less frequently, till the 12th of September.

During most of this time, both before and after the separation in July, Mr. Ladin, who, in constantly passing their back door, had soon become acquainted with the prisoner and his wife; had been in the habit of running in there when he had fallen about her with scolding and by which he was trying to hold her, and escaped into the sitting-room, having the door, leaving the wrapper in disorder and stained with blood, upon the floor of the bed-room, where it was found by the person who first went into the room.

Thus foiled the prisoner turned to complete his assassination of Mr. Ladin. Where Mr. Ladin was or precisely what he was doing, pending this struggle between the prisoner and his wife, we have no positive knowledge. His physician will tell you that he was a person of feeble constitution, with a functional disease of the heart, which, in the event of any violent shock, is extremely probable that he was overcome by a blow so powerful as to penetrate the breast bone, and either fell or staggered about in a state of unconsciousness; if he fell he recovered himself and took his course, in all events he had just reached his own door, had just got into the doorway carrying his carpet, when the prisoner sprang upon him the second time, and gave him that ghastly wound in the neck, severing the principal arteries and veins, which caused his death in about five minutes from the time it was inflicted. The carpet was found lying almost in the doorway with the burlap covering rolled back so as to show the figure of the carpet, both covering and carpet stained with blood. That the fatal blow was given in Mr. Ladin's own back door is conclusively shown by these facts. First, the prisoner was first seen there struggling with Mr. Ladin, with the bloody knife upraised in his right hand. Second: Upon that back door of Mr. Ladin, and upon an overcoat which was hung upon the hook next to it, was a copious effusion of blood, such as might be made by a person throwing a pail of blood or more out of a small glass, or ejecting it from a force pump, such as was seen at no other place without there. Third, along that path from Mr. Hoswell's door to Mr. Ladin's back door, a distance of 42 feet, were but a few drops of blood, such as might have dropped and undoubtedly did drop from this prisoner's blood-stained garments and hands; as well as blood upon the barn.

Immediately after he had been arrested and handcuffed he said, returning to the lifeless form of his victim—"Damn him, I have been watching him for some time, and now I've fixed him. I've got the son-of-a— where I want him." When told to look upon his hellish work, he said—"What would you do if you caught a man in bed with your wife?" This language attracted the special attention of all those who heard it to the condition of the bed. Nine or ten of as reliable witnesses as can be found in Hallowell will come upon the stand and tell you that that bed was as smooth, as sound as unpulled as you saw it this morning, save that the front corner of the sheet had been rolled back a little, as I have stated. It will appear from the positive testimony of at least three witnesses that Mr. Ladin's clothes when first seen after the assault upon him, were all in proper order.

At the close of Mr. Whitehouse's opening plea, James E Knight, an assistant employed by Mr. Laflin, was called to the stand, and testified to witnessing a part of the encounter in the back shop, where, according to the theory of the government, the fatal gash with the knife was given.

City Marshal Fowles testified to rushing into the shop in response to the cry of "murder," raised by young Knight; to the dying condition of Ladin, and the arrest and imprisonment of Hoswell, and to the spots of blood in the back yard and upon the inner door of the shop.

Another witness testified to witnessing the death of Ladin, and that his clothing was in proper order, giving no appearance of any recent impropriety upon his part.

The witnesses were subjected to a most rigid cross examination by Mr. Libby, of the counsel for the defence.

The Court room was crowded with spectators, nearly one-half of whom were women, all present evincing a most absorbing interest in the proceeding of the trial.

On Wednesday forenoon the following witnesses were examined for the prosecution. Dr. Bricket of Augusta, Drs. Hawes & Cole of Hallowell, and City Marshal Fowles of Hallowell. Mr. Fowles occupied the witness stand when the Court adjourned for dinner. The testimony was principally in reference to the condition of Mrs. Houswell's bed-room and Laflin's back room after the commission of the homicide, with a view on the part of the Government to confirm its theory that the fatal blow was struck by Hoswell after the parties had reached the door of Laflin's shop, thus placing the crime in the category of murder in the first degree. The effort of the prisoner's counsel on the other hand, on the cross-examination, was to controvert this theory, and if possible establish the other hypothesis more favorable to the prisoner, that the death wound was given in a fit of momentary passion, as Laflin emerged from Mrs. Hoswell's room. The cross-examination of Dr. Brickett, it is thought by those who listened to it, tended in some degree to weaken the position of the government and in a corresponding measure to sustain that of the defence.

In the afternoon City Marshal Fowles' testimony was continued, in which he fully identified the jackknife and revolver which was in the possession of the prisoner when he was arrested, also various articles of clothing which were produced in evidence. During rigid cross-examination the fact was elicited that the witness had been active in procuring evidence for Hoswell's conviction.

Mrs. Mary M. Laflin, widow of the murdered man, was called to testify in regard to putting down the carpet, but her testimony was objected to by the defense and excluded by the Court.

Mrs Jane L Hoswell, the wife of the prisoner, was called to testify, when Mr. Libby, for the defense objected on the ground that the law does not permit such testimony. The Court sustained the objection, and the witness was withdrawn. Some other unimportant testimony was introduced by the prosecution, and at 4½ o'clock Attorney General Reed stated that the government testimony was all in, and here rested its case. Whereupon the Court adjourned to Thursday morning at 9½ o'clock, when Mr. Libby will make the opening plea for the defense. It is probable that the trial may be brought to a close and a verdict reached by Saturday of the present week.

NOTES FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY. Messrs. Hutchins & Lane have a large steam mill near completion at Jay Bridge. The main building is 75x50, three stories high, with additions for the furnaces, engine room, etc. There is a grist mill with two run of stones; a large rotary saw; shingle, clapboard, lath, planing, matching and moulding machines; beside machinery for the manufacture of all kinds of boxes, from a large dry goods packing box, down to a small affair made from a mere shaving. A novelty is the caddy for holding small groceries, such as tea, coffee, etc.; the sides are formed from one piece grooved and bent to make square corners. The principle originated, I think, with Mr. Hutchins, and is patented. The mill when completed will cost about $25,000, $10,000 of which is loaned by the town of Jay, and $2,000 given by individuals. When the machinery is all running it will give employment to about fifty hands. The excellent water power here, unoccupied except by a single saw mill, is offered for sale—so I am informed.

At Weld, Messrs. Austin & Sanborn are doing an extensive business in their spool factory. They have now five machines running, turning out six hundred gross per day. They bought one thousand cords of lumber (white birch) last winter, which will all be used during the current year. In the same town, one thousand cords of poplar have been cut into salt boxes within a year. S.

☞ A correspondent writes us that Mr. Jonathan Hall, 83 years old, dug forty bushels of Orono potatoes this fall on the Town Farm in Charleston in five hours. This beats Chamberlain of Foxcroft.

### *Editor's Table.*

PLANE AND PLANK; or the Mishaps of a Mechanic. This is the second issue of the "Upward and Onward Series," of which Field and Forest, lately noticed by by us, was the first. It is liberally illustrated, and is a safe boy's book. Of course Oliver Optic is the author, and Lee & Shepard the publishers. [12 mo. pp 315. Sold in this city at Clapp & North, Water St.]

GOOD HEALTH, a monthly magazine, devoted to "mental and physical culture," and published by Alexander Moore, 11 Bromfield St., Boston, is just now at the close of its second volume, and should not be overlooked in making up a list of wholesome reading for the coming winter. Terms $2 00 per year.

COUGH AND COLDS, New York: Hurd & Houghton, is the general title given by Dr. W. W. Hall, to one of the latest popular medical treatises; "the prevention, cause and cure of various affections of the throat, with cases illustrating the remarkable efficacy of Out Door Activity and Horseback Exercise, in permanently arresting the progress of diseases of the chest"—let us rest a moment—being the remainder of the title. The book is a good one, because it recommends nature's means of relieving and restoring the diseased. Pure air, plain food, and an abundance of physical exercise, have cured more than medicine. Although not a medical treatise, exactly, it is yet full of good advice, and can be read with interest by sick and well [Uniform with the same author's "Health by Good Living," containing 322 pages, and for sale in this city by Clapp & North.]

The title of Miss Jennie Collins' recent book—"NATURE'S ARISTOCRACY: or Battles and Wounds in Time of Peace"—may, perhaps, mislead those who only see the title in the publisher's advertisements, and have no opportunity of examining the book. The sub-title, "A Plea for the Oppressed," would give no additional light, in the absence of any statement as to who the oppressed are. "Nature's aristocracy" are those men and women, of whatever rank or condition, who by pure lives and an honorable record, have a right to the title; the "battles and wounds in time of peace," are the wrongs toiling men and women are too often obliged to submit to, from individuals or corporations who furnish them their daily bread. The book is made up of facts and incidents in the lives of working women, who compose the large class of factory operatives, shop and waiter girls, and other kinds of servants; and is in fact a plea for the rights of woman whether oppressed or not. It will do much good in this social reform. [Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston, in a neat 12 mo. volume of 322 pages, and for sale in this city by Clapp & North.]

"WITH FATE AGAINST HIM," (New York: Sheldon & Company) is the title which Miss Amanda M. Douglass gives to her latest story. The rank which Miss Douglass occupies as a writer, is not, it is true, very elevated, as compared with the living novelists of our country, but it is a work of which she has no need to be ashamed. Her books are always pure, natural, and teach good lessons. She is not a sensational writer; and her books can be safely recommended as most suitable to replenish the family or social library. There have been few better novels than "In Trust," by this same author, and although in "Stephen Dane," and "Sydnie Adriance" she has hardly kept up with her reputation acquired by the first named book, yet she is loved none the less, and whatever she writes will be sure to find a generous list of reader and admirers. [12 mo. 370 pages for sale in this city by Clapp & North.]

THE MAGAZINES FOR 1871. There are three general classes of popular magazines published in our country for the entertainment and instruction of as many classes of readers. The first compose the magazines for the people, of which *Harper's Monthly* is, perhaps a good type; next those for the ladies, of which the *Lady's Book* may be taken as a sample, and lastly those for juveniles, of which *Our Young Folks* is a good specimen. In the first class besides *Harper's* are the *Galaxy*, *Atlantic*, *Scribner's*, and *Lippincott's*. Among the leading features of the above for the coming year, are a story by Prof. James DeMille, in *Harper's*, one by Henry James, in the *Atlantic*, and articles on Industrial Topics by David A. Wells, in *Lippincott's*. *Godey's Lady's Book*, *The Lady's Friend* and *Arthur's Home Magazine*, each promise special attractions, to those for whom they are prepared. The juveniles—and there are lots of them—are each striving to please and instruct the boys and girls. *Our Young Folks*, *The Children's Hour* and that charming little *Nursery* are each to go on as usual. The *Riverside* has, we regret to say, been discontinued, and *Our Boy's and Girl's* (Oliver Optic's paper) will be changed from a weekly to a monthly. We advise our readers to send to the publishers of each of the above, for specimen copies, club rates, &c., and make up their reading for the winter.

For the Maine Farmer.

### *Waterville and Winslow Free Bridge.*

WINSLOW, Nov. 28, 1870.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In a recent number of the FARMER, we learn that the Winslow people are rejoicing in the prospect of crossing the new bridge. Winslow, accustomed as she is to support an unusual number of bridges, though so unfortunate as to maintain one end of the notorious "free bridge," makes no complaint.

One thing, however, she does not like. Being an unselfish town, she hates to have it going the round of the papers that she is the only one to be benefitted by the bridge. Waterville derives a revenue from the trade of many towns lying back from the river on the east side, which in favorable times pass through Winslow to get to the *metropolis*. The bridge gone, all the trade which formerly passed over it is diverted to Kendalls Mills, Vassalboro' and other towns, while Winslow, having her own churches, railroad station and stores, is comparatively independent, and though discommoded by the want of a bridge, is as lively as she ever was. In reality, the town or city is the dependent section, the country the independent.

So when you again enumerate the benefits accruing from the coming bridge, please saddle them on Waterville—the real gainer, and not make out Winslow the poor little helpless town that her big sister Waterville is magnanimously standing up for. HALIFAX.

THE BELFAST AND MAINE CENTRAL IMBROGLIO. We copied from the Bangor *Whig* last week, a statement in regard to the difficulty of obtaining a fair decision in regard to the building of the Belfast and Moosehead Railroad from the State Commissioners, to whom the matter was referred by the terms of the contract with the Maine Central, on the ground that Col. Wildes, one of the Commissioners, was also Engineer in charge of the construction of the Belfast road, and would, not unnaturally, be governed or influenced in his action by that fact. In justice to Col. Wildes, the additional facts should be stated, as we learn them from the Belfast *Journal*, viz: that "Col. Wildes was one of the Railroad Commissioners at the time the contract was made, providing that the Board should settle differences; and at the same time he was also Chief Engineer of the road. As a legal proposition, could the terms of the contract be changed by any powers less than those that made and ratified it? Could the Directors undo the work of the stockholders, and submit the question to a different arbitration, which would be the effect of leaving off a member? Col. Wildes was informed, by the best legal authority, that his withdrawal would render the award null and void—and like an honorable man, determined to do his duty, he remained."

It will be seen by the decision of the Commissioners, which will be found elsewhere in our columns, that the Belfast road is declared to be a "first class railroad, and such as is called for by the contract between the parties." All the members of the Board concur in this decision.

☞ The Cape Ann *Advertiser* says that last Wednesday evening schooner Watchman, Capt. Small, of and for Winterport, while about two miles off Thacher's Island, was run into by an English brig, name unknown, and sunk soon after, the captain and crew having barely time to take the boat ere she went down. They arrived at Gloucester during the night, and on Thursday a subscription was raised for their benefit and they left for home. Those on board the brig took no notice of the men whatever, but kept on their course, neither knowing nor apparently caring whether their lives were saved or not.

☞ For New Improvements and reduced prices of good MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, write to R. M. Mansur, Augusta, Me.

### *Items of Maine News.*

The *Sunrise* says Aroostook is prolific in all good things. On Monday last, Mr. G. C. Hill of Lyndon passed through Presque Isle village with over a ton and a half of money made by his own bees on his farm the past season, and with it to Boston for a market. At twenty cents per lb., this would come to $500.

Edna Robins of Belfast, who has been residing in Boston about two weeks, attempted to take her life on Saturday night by swallowing poisoned grass. She was discovered in great pain Sunday morning, and confessed the act, saying that she was tired of life. Two doctors were called, who, after affording her what temporary relief they could, ordered her removed to the City Hospital. It is not probable that she will recover.

The Bangor *Whig* says that Rev. W. Newell, who has been for the past eight or nine years in charge of the Congregational Church at Brewer Village, has removed to North Waterford, Oxford County, and assumed charge of the Congregational Church at that place.

Mr. Stephen Richards of Rockland, who was so severely injured on the 16th inst., by the falling of a rock upon him, while he was engaged working in the bottom of a reservoir, died on the 18th inst.

A. P. Gould, Esq of Thomaston, had a narrow escape from drowning a few days since while crossing the Kennebec river from Woolwich in a row boat with a boy. The boat upset in the middle of the stream, but assistance from the shore saved Mr. Gould and the boy.

Ship Persia of Bath, from New Orleans for Liverpool, with a cargo of cotton, went ashore on Frying Pan shoals, Thursday morning. Her cargo is worth $25,000. The United States Revenue Cutter and two steam tugs went to her assistance. The ship is so strained that if she gets off she will not be able to proceed on her voyage.

The Bangor *Whig* says that on Friday night last about 5½ o'clock, the down freight train on the E. & N. A. Railway, ran over a little girl, aged two years a daughter of Mr. Thomas Cunningham of Milford. The child strayed away from her home, was missed, and her little sister who was sent to search for her, found her remains on the track where the railway crosses the county road—the head being completely severed from the body and lying at a distance of several feet from it. It was very dark at the time of the accident, and the train employes were unaware of the sad occurrence until Saturday morning.

Wm. H. Wood, a well known stock broker in Portland, committed suicide on Friday morning last, by hanging. He was an estimable man, but it is reported that he was driven to the fatal deed by domestic troubles.

The *Independent* learns of the death of Thomas Jenkins of Saco, on Monday. He was one hundred and two years and ten months old at the time of his death, and was the oldest man in the town.

On Friday night of last week, a barn belonging to John McGuire of Pittston, was destroyed by fire. It contained about twelve tons of English hay, and some eight tons of meadow hay. The fire was the work of an incendiary. Loss about $440. No insurance, says the *Gardiner Journal*.

We learn from the *Journal* that on Wednesday evening last, a man named Joshua Robinson fell down a flight of stairs in Lewiston, while intoxicated, and received such severe injuries that he died at 10 o'clock Thursday forenoon.

In Portland, on Friday last, as Mr. Merwin A. Jones, a machinist, was at work in the boiler shop of the Portland Company's works, the staging on which he was standing gave way, and he was precipitated upon a shaft below revolving at the rate of nine revolutions a minute. His clothes caught and he was carried around some two hundred and fifty time. As soon as he could be extricated medical assistance was called; but the injuries were found to be fatal and he died at 7½ o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Alexander McPone of Westbrook, who owns and works an extensive leather dressing factory at the corner of the road leading from the Morrill's Corner road to Stevens' Plains, committed suicide on Monday afternoon by hanging himself.

Major Charles Blake, fomerly of this city, died in Ottumwa, Iowa, Nov. 14th, aged a little more than 76 years. He was a son of John Blake, who held the rank of Major-General in the Revolutionary war, and also had a command in the war of 1812. Thirteen years ago, deceased removed to Iowa, where he resided until his death.

Dr. T. H. Chase made a post mortem examination of Mrs. Luella Gross, who recently died in Orland at the age of over 107 years. He says he found the bones chalky and crumbly from age, and the arteries of the leg ossified (turned to bone). Her vital organs were sound.

The body of a man found drowned at Belfast Tuesday of last week, has been identified as that of Luther Whitney, of Thorndike. He probably wandered off one of the wharves in a temporary fit of insanity.

Nathan Longfellow, Esq., a wealthy and esteemed citizen of Machias, died at his residence in that town Sunday noon, Nov. 20th, aged 82 years.

The bridge across the Kennebec at Norridgwock is completed. Its cost will not exceed twelve thousand dollars. The bridge was open for travel the first of October, and its earnings have been six hundred dollars.

Wm. Rogers, formerly of Lubec, but late of East Machias, was found dead in his carriage between the

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

# Foreign News.

## The War in Europe.

**The Feeling in England on the Black Sea Question.**

London, Nov. 22. Earl Russell writes to the *Times* to-day approving Earl Granville's firm and unanswerable dispatch, and urging that more authority, if necessary, be conferred upon the Crown to call out the militia.

He considers that a real emergency exists when the Minister of a great power assumes the right to abrogate a treaty binding seven of the chief states of Europe, and points out the large number of Russian troops moving to the frontier of Turkey, and suggests that 100,000 militia in addition to the militia reserve be called out.

London, Nov. 22. The feeling to-day in regard to the Eastern question is much more healthy. Confidence is in good part restored in money circles, and breadstuffs are again declining.

The *Morning Post* officially denies that Bismarck repudiates the existence of an understanding with Russia about the Euxine question.

London, Nov. 23. [Special to New York *Tribune*.] Gortschakoff's answer to Granville left St. Petersburg on Monday by a special messenger. It was not communicated to the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, but his dispatches intimate that the note is conciliatory in tone. It is believed at the Foreign Office that Gortschakoff, while witholding the precise information from Sir A. Buchanan, has encouraged him to report favorably to London regarding the disposition of Russia.

London, Nov. 22. The belief on Downing street is that Russia, in deference to the united opinion of the great powers, will withdraw the pretensions advanced by Gortschakoff's note and express her willingness to refer the question at issue to a conference, which will not be summoned until after the termination of the present war. It is believed in the same quarter that Italy will ultimately join Austria and England in resisting Russia.

**Latest from Paris.**

London, Nov. 22. News has been received from Paris by balloon up to midnight of Monday. The city was entirely tranquil. Gustave Flourens, who was arrested for complicity in the riots on the 31st of October, was at large again.

The supply of meat had been limited to fifty grammes daily. Horse flesh and vegetables were still abundant

All unmarried men between the ages of 20 and 35 had been enrolled in the National Guard.

The Garde Mobile have been repulsed at Dreux and Chateau Neuf. They fled west and northwest.

The siege of Montmedy continues. The garrison made a successful sortie on the 17th, and 500 Germans were either killed, wounded or captured. The besiegers have since withdrawn beyond the fire of the fortress.

Tours, Nov. 22. A balloon has just brought good news from Paris. The successes of the Army of the Loire had produced excellent effect. Dissensions were forgotten and amnesty for political offences were granted. The people had abandoned their eagerness for a sortie, and are resigned to stand on the defensive. There has been no serious fighting and little cannonading lately around Paris

**News from Prussian Sources.**

Luxembourg, Nov. 22. The bombardment of Thionville by the Prussians was very active to-day. The shots average about eighteen per minute.

Berlin, Nov. 22. [Special dispatch to the New York *World*.] According to the latest information from Versailles, incessant exertions are directed for the formation of a second outer line of investment to cover the operations of the inner line.

The strategy of Gen. Palladine is understood at Versailles, and has been met by a counter movement with the centre at Orleans. Gen. Palladines has extended his line both north and south, intending to enclose the Germans on both flanks, but the latter have executed similar movements, and falling back at the same time toward Paris. De Palladines' line is now said to extend from Le Mans, through Vendome, Orleans and Bourges, to Nevers. His main body rests along this line, while it is feared that a large section of his force has passed northward to Dreux. His line also extends from Orleans to Augerville, and in a triangle, whereof Vendome, Orleans and Augerville form the points.

A special correspondent of the *Tribune* telegraphs from Berlin on Tuesday that accounts from headquarters show that the disposition has been abandoned whereby Frederick Coarles was to cross the Loire and march on Bourges and take the army of the Loire in the rear.

All the German forces are now concentrating on Paris. The investing army will be covered against all interruptions during the active operations pending, by a military semi-circle from Etamps, Chatres and Dreux to Evereux and Mantes, with Frederick Charles heading the line on the South, Mantenfel on the North, and the Duke of Mecklenburg on the Western centre.

Brussels, Nov. 22. The *Independence Belge* says that a proposition for peace as well as an armistice will soon be submitted at Versailles, from the basis of which the principle of territorial cession will be excluded.

**Movements of the Contending Armies.**

London, Nov. 23. It is reported that the Prussians are besieging Montmedy and Mexieres, and they have suddenly raised a siege and gone towards the interior of France.

The city of Lille is well armed, provisioned and garrisoned. The manufacture of mitrailleases and other arms is actively going on.

The Prussians have been firing for two days on the engineers who were at work in front of Fort Issy. Forts Vauves and Issy returned the fire. The Germans were marching on the northern side of the city, near St. Denis.

The people of Paris have not heard anything from Tours since October 24.

*London, Nov. 23* Advices from Tours have been received up to the 22d inst. The day before the Mobile Garde opposed the Prussians four hours before giving way.

The Prussians threaten Nogent le Rotrou and Le Mans with a force 3000 strong. Another force is moving on Argentan. The German line extends from Senches to Auxerre, taking in Dreux.

It is denied that the Army of the Loire is to move toward Paris.

London, Nov. 23. On the 13th inst. the sharpshooters in Gen. Trochu's army made a reconnoissance from Paris as far as Champegny, three miles southeast of Vincennes. At that point a large body of Prussians was encountered, and after a sharp action were dislodged and the stores collected there destroyed. The Parisians returned to camp without serious loss.

**Intelligence from Paris.**

London, Nov. 23. [Special to New York *Tribune*.] Paris dispatches from the 8th up to the 19th have been received. In that of the 10th he says; In my district there was no distribution of meat for four days, and in the next district my friends are dining on cats, rats and Guinea pigs. The number of deaths are 1800 weekly, of which 380 are from small pox.

On the 13th Gen. Trochu announced to his friends that preparations for a sortie were nearly complete, but that the troops were dreadfully demoralized.

On the 15th Favre published Gambetta's dispatch, announcing the recapture of Orleans, and in addition said that we were soon going to join hands with our brethren of the departments, and with them deliver the country.

The first number of the new telegraphic newspaper, containing private messages printed and microscopically photographed, containing 226 dispatches on a surface of twelve centimetres square, received in Paris yesterday by a pigeon, with intelligence from every part of France and abroad, but the pigeon service is extremely uncertain. Out of 200 taken away by balloons only 30 have returned.

London, Nov. 23. A special correspondent of the New York *World*, writing from Paris on the 17th, says: This morning I went through the Bois de Boulogne. It is desolate, and is blackened by fire and ravaged by the ax. St. Cloud is only partially burnad. The scene all round is inexpressibly desolate.

The Germans have erected a mortar battery in the main avenue of Parade Mont Meton, on the outskirts of St. Cloud, and a battery of Canon at Brimbonion park, between Sevres and Dairie. The Government yesterday accepted from the makers, 300 rifled breach loading cannon, the range of which is 8000 yards. Every quarter is animated with that unmistakable bustle which proceeds battle. Orderlies are galloping to and fro, ambulances are preparing and artillery is moving towards the gates.

Trochu has issued a proclamation, saying: "We have made efforts and honored our misfortune in the eyes of the whole world. Europe is amazed at the unexpected spectacle of a close union existing between the rich and poor. The enemy are suffering far more than we suspect. They begin to yield in their implacable resolution to imperil all Europe by a dissolution of the French nation. They may crush us yet, but if we fall we have bequeathed to Prussia, together with the scheme that cannot be carried into execution, an inheritance of execrations and hatred, under which she, in turn, will fall."

Our first line of defence is 1500 yards from the Prussian outposts. It consists of impregnable intrenchments, constructed on the road beyond Villejuif within the past few days. From these intrenchments one may see the Prussian sentinels. One hundred and fifteen mitrailleurs have been received from private makers, and heavy navy guns, made here, have been placed on the works beyond Villejuif.

The French three per cents are quoted at 53f. 5c.

The health of the city has improved decidedly. The deaths this week number 1762.

**The German Forces Concentrating at Paris.**

London, Nov. 23. [Special to New York *World*.] The report of the abandonment of the German attempt to invade the northwest and southwest of France and the concentration of all their forces in the immediate neighborhood of Paris, is confirmed to-day by a dispatch from Berlin, stating that all the German forces are now concentrating at Paris, to form a defensive semi-circle from Etamps by the way of Chatres and Dreux to Manles, with Frederick Charles on the south, the Duke of Mecklenburg on the west, and Gen. Mantenfel on the north.

**A Great Battle is Imminent.**

The design seems to be to pierce the enemy's centre at Etamps by a column of 150,000 moving from Angerville, while a simultaneous attack will be made all along his attenuated line west and northwest o Etamps. At Rouen there is an entrenched camp of 15,000 National Guards Mobile, and from thence an almost unbroken line of entrenched camps extend to Evereux and Le Mans. Between Le Mans and Bouloire is a strong force amounting to 62 guns, manned by sailors and Mobiles from the South of France. Le Mans is garrisoned by Pontifical Zouaves. From Le Mans the line extends west to Orleans and northwest to Angerville. Your correspondent is forbidden to give further details, but says that the whole strength of the army is underestimated at 300,000, while its equipment, zeal and discipline are perfect.

London, Nov. 23. A special correspondent, writing from Rambouillet the 19th, describes the storming and capture of Chateau Neuf en Themaris on the 22. The division of Gen. Wiltch, after sharp skirmishing all the morning, advanced with the Germans and entered the town, supposing it free of French, but they were suddenly fired upon from the houses so fiercely that they were obliged to retreat precipitately. The town was then bombarded and taken. It was occupied by 119 marines, who were taken prisoners.

**Various Items.**

All foreigners, including neutrals, have been forbidden to leave Paris The Prussians had already refused to permit them to pass their lines.

In a skirmish south of La Loupe yesterday, the 83d French regiment captured one gun from the Prussians. The Germans have occupied Nogent Le Rotrau without resistance.

Berlin, Nov. 23. The prevalent opinion among official circles here is that Prince Gortschakoff's note will not lead to war, and if it does Germany will probably remain neutral. The opinion is that it will certainly take no part against Prussia. The memorial to Bismarck is being extensively signed.

**Meeting of the North German Parliament.**

Berlin, Nov. 24. The North German Parliament was opened to-day. The royal speech was delivered by Delbruck. The King regrets that his absence with the army prevents him from thanking in person the nation for its firm attitude and for the unanimity of support given him in winning victory for Germany and repelling French aggressions. France, he continues, has been taught her inability to cope with the united forces of Germany.

The peace of the world, therefore, will be certain if France had leaders who could identify their future with that of their country. Documents will be submitted which will show you that these men prefer to sacrifice the forces of and ruin a noble nation rather than relinquish power. It is to be regretted that by this conduct bitter feelings will be perpetuated, and hereafter France will only remain peaceful until an opportunity for hostilities is offered.

The conditions on which the German powers are willing to treat for peace are well-known. They must commensurate with the sacrifices of the nation.

**The Russian Minister's Reply.**

St. Petersburg, Nov 24. Gortschakoff's relpy to the the British and Austrian Government is very conciliatory. It explains the pacific meaning of previous declarations, and affirms that Russia craves peace generally, and in the East especially; that it is impossible to maintain it without a common understanding, and Russia shrinks from acting separately from the other powers.

**Prussian Movements around Paris.**

London, Nov. 25. Large bodies of Prussians are marching south to take positions around Paris and near Orleans. The Germans who have been operating around Roery, Rassigny and Mezieres have suddenly departed, going in the same direction. Several Prussian divisions passed Soissons going to Amiens early in the week, and others were to follow.

The formal surrender of Thionville occurred this morning. The town had been burning since Tuesday last. It was the last stronghold of the French in Lorraine.

Amiens, Nov. 24. The Prussian advance force between Domart and Beaucourt has been driven back to Roye.

A dispatch from Versailles yesterday says the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg is rapidly advancing, probably on the army of the Loire.

**The Food Supply of Paris.**

London, Nov. 25. By balloon a complete file of Paris journals to the 24th inst. have been received.

*Le Temps* says that the supply of beef and mutton will be exhausted in a few days. There is but very little salt meat, but there is dried fish sufficient for twelve days. There is a five months supply of chocolate, but rice is less abundant, and is becoming scarce. The sugar, coffee and wine will last a long time yet. There is enough material far bread on hand to carry the supply into January without any diminution in either quality or quantity, and horse flesh will last two months longer.

**Cabinet Crisis in England.**

London, Nov. 25.—P. M. The Cabinet assembled at half-past two. Granville and Gladstone were absent. At three o'clock Gladstone arrived with Gortschakoff's note, which was read, and then ensued a hot and even angry discussion, but no decision was arrived at. The Cabinet adjourned 7 o'clock to meet again tomorrow.

London, Nov. 25. The Cabinet crisis culminated today. This morning Granville went to Windsor Castle to inform Her Mrjesty of the impossibility of carrying on the Government with a Cabinet so irreconciliably divided as to the policy to be pursued toward Russia. The tender of his resignation at this issue will upset the Ministry.

**French Victory near Vendome.**

The *World's* special correspondant gives the following account of a great French victory near Vendome yesterday. The battle was begun at two o'clock in the afternoon, when the Prussians attempted to turn the left flank of Gen. Palladine's forces, posted along the Chatres and Vendome railroad under Gen. Garnett. The Prussians were repulsed and routed, suffering great loss and were pursued till nine o'clock at night. They retreated towards Chatesudun. Two guns were captured. The government also has dispatches announcing engagements along the whole front and on both flanks of Paladine's lines, all of which resulted in victories for the French.

Luxembourg, Nov. 26. Cannonading was heard yesterday in the direction of Montmedy. That place at last accounts was closely invested, though siege works had been commenced. The commandant threatens to blow up the fortress rather than surrender. The garrison of Belford made a sortie on Wednesday, but were driven back.

**Engagement near Orleans.**

In reconnoitering near Orleans, yesterday, the 10th Prussian corps encountered the 20th French corps of Gen. de Palladines' army and an engagement occurred, in which the French were driven from their strong position at Dadon with serious loss. Subsequently several French companies attacked the Prussian 10th corps, but were repulsed with a loss of 40. A French General was taken prisoner by the Prussians. The German loss was trifling.

**Defeat of the Garibaldians.**

London, Nov. 24—4 P. M. The Garibaldians, while on a march from Pasquelate, Saturday afternoon, came upon the outposts of Prussian rifles, which they immediately attacked with great impetuosity. The Prussians were at first compelled to fall back, but reinforcements coming up the Garibaldians were in turn repulsed with great disorder, the soldiers throwing away their arms and knap-sacks in their flight. Gen. Werder the next day (Sunday) took a circuit around them, and overtook the French rear guard, and another engagement occurred in which the French lost 350 in killed and wounded and the Prussians only 50. It is said that Menotti Garibaldi had 2000 men under his command in this engagement.

By the capitulation of Lafere 70 cannon of all sorts fell into the hands of the Prussians.

**A French Victory Near Amiens.**

London, Nov. 28—5 P. M. The French claim to have won a great victory at Moreuil, 120 miles south south of Amiens, yesterday. The battle lasted until darkness interfered. The German "First" army is alleged to have been beaten and driven back to its entrenchments before Amiens. The French army of the North was greater in numbers and better armed. The losses are obscurely given in thousands. The Prussian hussars rode down and cut to pieces a regiment of mounted infantry. The German losses were severe.

**Prussian Successes.**

Berlin, Nov. 29. The fortified city of Lafere on the Oise, northeast of Paris, has capitulated to the Prussians.

King William has forwarded the following dispatch to Queen Augusta:

Versailles, Nov. 29. Yesterday Gen. Manteuffel with a portion of the first army defeated the French a few miles south of Amiens. The French lost 1000 killed and wounded, and 700 prisoners. The Prussian loss was unimportant.

The *World's* correspondent at Versailles, on the 25th, says that he interviewed Bismarck for two hours yesterday. Bismarck said that the unconditional surrender of Paris would not be accepted. The capitulation of the city would only be permitted when conditions for a complete cessation of hostilities had been agreed to. Thus may those who threaten that war will not end with the fall of Paris be circumvented.

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Remarkable Railway Accident. A train on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, had a remarkable escape the other day. When crossing the Louisville bridge over the Ohio river the engine was thrown from the track by a broken rail. Yet, although five feet of rail were out of place, all the rest of the train *leaped the break* and struck the rail on the other side in safety. When the engine left the track, the engineer and fireman shut off steam and climbed out on the boiler, in order, as they said, "to be on top, whichever way she jumped," and left the rest to fate.

Will she keep the bridge, or will she plunge thirty feet to the dark water below just covered with a thin coating of ice? A guard rail runs along connecting the ends of the sleepers, and made of a square timber. The edge of this just catches the flange of the front truck wheel and they are saved. The rail of wood acts for a short distance as a rail of iron, and conducts the engine over the chasm. Two inches more to the left and nothing could have saved them. Just beyond the bridge the engine left the sleepers, and tearing away the track in all directions, plunged down the bank to the left, but so slowly that the entire train, except the express car, remained on the track. The driver and fireman jumped off uninjured, and one man scratched in the baggage car was the only casualty.

A Social Evil. We copy from a recent number of the Portland *Press*, by request, some just and timely suggestions, in regard to an evil which has become so widespread in its influence as seriously to impair, if not absolutely to destroy the natural sense of modesty, and sometimes even of decency, in the social intercourse of the community. The article is as follows:

"H. C. Dane, Esq., has been lately contributing to one of our leading journals some thoughtful considerations in reference to this topic, which deserve a wider notice than they will be likely to receive. At the bottom of 'the social evil' there are several fundamental causes. Her early enslavement to labor and passion; her frequent poverty; lack of appreciation of her mission and her worth by man; the physical charms of her person; the haste and superficiality of her education; the immorality of modern literature and art; the immodesty of fashionable female attire, and finally the want of high moral sentiment among men—these are the deep and chronic causes. The arguments adduced by the writer alluded to are appalling, and the worst thing about it is they are true. Take the matter of dress for example:

Paris gives woman her style of dress. Paris, with its idea of female virtue; Paris, with its female license and abandonment; Paris, with its legalized system of prostitution, gives christian America its style of female dress, which is studied for one great purpose—to fascinate the eyes and arouse the passions of men. We may deny this, but it is a fact, and is making its impress upon the morals of our society. Dress is studied to present all the female charms to the greatest advantage, and no one can pass an evening in a fashionable drawing-room and not feel it. Simple modesty is looked upon by society, so called, as a show of weakness. There are customs and styles of dress now common, that a few years since would have shocked the eyes of all beholders. The same is true in reference to the pictorial art, now so thoroughly subsidized in the service of vice. In newspapers and by photographic art pictures are made unblushingly seductive. Not a man, woman or child can pass along our streets without seeing them. And thus children are made familiar with sin and crime before they even know what they mean. Men of all classes buy them to take home, thoughtlessly carrying the serpent of ruin into the family. There is nothing so deadly to morality as immoral pictures, and we are surrounded by them. Young ladies stand and gaze into the news depot's windows at those pictures without even a blush. It is so fearfully common that we have ceased to think of it. Our sense of modesty is dead. We are blind, and unless we get our eyes open soon we shall become sadly dead to shame. It is plain, then, if we would remove the social evil we must first signalize its causes and remove them, not only by penal enactment, but the introduction of a truer and more christian education of the sex."

A Phenomenal Year. A contemporary, in enumerating some of the many remarkable events of the year which is now drawing to a close, says:

Thus far the year has been marked by an unusual number and variety of atmospheric phenomena, and many of them have been crowded into the experience of the last few days or weeks. There was a tremendous tidal wave some two months ago that left an impression of its power along our coast from Cape May to St. Johns. In many parts of the country there was a severe and prolonged drouth, which reduced the field crops materially, but quickened into unwonted activity the bearing qualities of the orchards. If New England is without hay she is afloat with cider.

The heat of the summer, too, was marvellous, following as it did upon a winter in which but little ice was formed over wide regions where it is a common winter product. The evening sky has glowed with auroras of unwonted brilliancy. Meteors and aerolites have darted across the night heavens. The commotion of the sea and sky has been supplemented by terrene movements, and an earthquake has shaken the foundations of the land over a thousand miles of longitude. That which has seemed an impossibility in our part of the world has become an actual fact, and New York can sympathize with Lima in the "great shakes" that upset the gravity of the Peruvians. There have been sudden and devastating freshets in many rivers. Hail has fallen upon the fields, and tornadoes have blown themselves out in wrathful tumult. The year will be remembered as one of marked phenomena in nature, such as have not been known to the oldest inhabitant.

☞ The tragic incidents and wide-spread destruction of the recent Virginia floods are nearly paralleled by the devastation in Kansas and Colorado, caused by the overflowing of the banks of the Great Platte river, which a few weeks ago overflowed its banks, and ruined settlements and crops for hundreds of miles in its mad course to the Missouri. Many of the houses on the Kansas and Colorado banks of the Platte and its tributaries are built of *adobe*, a species of unburnt bricks, made of mud; and when the waters came, these frail habitations melted like snow under a hot sun. Cattle grazing miles from the rivers were carried off bodily, and have since been found hundreds of miles below the corrals. The branch railroads of Missouri and Kansas suffered severely, and in the northern limits of inundation the late crops were utterly destroyed. A picturesque incident is narrated of a Kinney family, on the Northern Kansas border, whose modest log and frame house, built on a hill, and embowered in a labyrinth of flowers and vines, was carried from its site and lodged squarely in the branches of a giant tree. Everything was safe when the family retired, but shortly after midnight Mr. Kinney was awakened by a curious creaking noise, and upon opening his lattice found a river of rust ing water roaring about his dwelling. He watched alone during the lingering hours of night, not daring to awaken his family, and in the morning found that he was, like a modern Swiss Robinson, securely domiciled in the branches of an immense and well remembered tree, about three hundred yards from his original home site. For two days the water held him in the leafy tenement, and on the third assistance came as the flood receded, and the half starved family were rescued.

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Railroad Commissioners' Decision. The State Railroad Commissioners in the matter arising out of the "contract for a lease" entered into between the Belfast and Maine Central Railroad, on Wednesday last, made a decision, the substantial portions of which are as follows:

And now after view of the road, and due consideration of the suggestions of counsel on both sides, and of directors, made when together in progress of our view of it, and after mature consideration of the contract aforesaid between the parties, we have come to a determination of the questions in difference between them, touching the construction of said road, that have been presented to us, and this is our opinion and decision in the premises.

That said Railroad from Belfast to the Maine Central road at Burnham, was built and ready for the rolling stock on the first day of November, A. D. 1870, as required by the "contract for a lease" of said road entered into by the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad Company, and the Maine Central Railroad Company, on the 10th of June, 1869, and in the manner as so required for the reception of its rolling stock.

That said railroad from Belfast to the Maine Central road at Burnham, in its organic construction and in its general character was, on the first day of November, aforesaid, and is now a "First Class Railroad," and such as is called for by the contract aforesaid between the parties. But in some minor respects we think it fails to come up to the requisitions of said "contract for a lease" as a completed road.

It is so far finished and agreeable to the contract as to be ready for the rolling stock and in fit condition to be operated therewith for passengers and traffic during the coming winter and spring without further work upon it. The ordinary repairs by section men and the extraordinary casualities incident to all roads excepted.

That by the said "contract for a lease" the party of the first part thereto has a day of grace beyond the first day of November, 1870, in which to bring the road up to the requirements of the contract, in these respects, of minor importance, and which do not impair the safe and efficient working of the road; and that it is their right and duty so to do as early as practicable. But having reference to the season of the year, we think and so decide, that is done by the first day of July, 1871, it will done within a reasonable time.

And in our opinion it may be done without interference to the operating the Road by lessees.

Made in duplicate at Belfast, this 28 day of Nov. 1870.

A. W. Wilden, S. H. Blake, S. T. Corser. } Railroad Com's of Maine

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The Ice Business for 1871. Extensive preparations are already being made on the Kennebec for the coming ice campaign. Three new houses, of a capacity of 50,000 tons, are in process of erection. Mr. Cheeseman, the great ice king, will also store a larger amount than last winter if the coming season is favorable for freezing. Should such be the case, the increase in cutting and storing this winter on the Kennebec and immediate vicinity will be a hundred thousand tons more than last year, making something over 350,000 tons. Quite a number of new ice companies have been formed also to work on many of the back ponds near Bath, from which place they can ship at any season of the year.

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Served him Right. A letter from Nevada, explaining how Thomas Fitch, lost his election as a member of Congress. At the last election between 400 and 500 Mormons from Utah were imported into the Southwest counties of the State. These Mormons were expected to vote for Fitch, the republican candidate, but instead, they all voted the straight democratic ticket. Mr. Fitch lost the election by 200 votes.

☞ In a recent letter addressed by Jay Cooke, the eminent banker, to the President of the Immigration Convention, which met in Indianapolis last week, he makes allusion to a subject which has not attracted the public attention as it deserves. He says:

Although for years we have as a nation derived a very large share of our marvellous increase in numbers, wealth and power, from immigration, this vast interest has been singularly neglected by our National Government, while State authorities and private corporations have accomplished much. Experience has shown that the General Government is the only power competent to do the really national work of fostering immigration on an adequate scale, and protecting each immigrant while in transit between the old home and the new. In addition to the Government neglect of immigration, it seems to me it wholly lacks a business-like method of promoting the rapid settlement of our public land: by our landless citizens, native and foreign born. Our liberal homestead and bounty laws are rendered inoperative through the failure to disseminate, among the classes they are specially designed to benefit, that minute and full information without which the proffered gift has but little value. For example, what farmer's son, what day laborer in an Eastern city, much less what newly arrived emigrant, knows where to find desirable public lands, or how to secure them when found? A simple and inexpensive system of furnishing this information to the landless masses by means of pamphlets and printed documents would quadruple the present rate of settlement of our public domain, give prosperous homes to thousands who are now poor and homeless, and add proportionately to our national growth and wealth.

# Special Notices.

**The Great Pictorial Annual.**

Hostetter's United States Almanac for 1871, for distribution, *gratis*, throughout the United States, and all civilized countries of the Western Hemisphere, will be published about the first of January, and all who wish to understand the true philosophy of health should read and ponder the valuable suggestions it contains. In addition to an admirable medical treatise on the causes prevention and cure of a great variety of diseases, it embraces a large amount of information interesting to the merchant, the mechanic, the miner, the farmer, the planter, and professional man; and the calculations have been made for such meridians and latitudes as are most suitable for a correct and comprehensive National Calendar.

The nature, uses, and extraordinary sanitary effects of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the staple tonic and alterative of more than half the Christian world, are fully set forth in its pages, which are also interspersed with pictorial illustrations, valuable recipes fo the household and farm, humorous anecdotes, and other instructive and amusing reading matter, original and selected. Among the Annuals to appear with the opening of the year, this will be one of the most useful, and *may be had for the asking*. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood. The Bitters are sold in every city, town and village, and are extensively used throughout the entire civilized world. 1m52

**"POLAND'S HUMOR DOCTOR"**

Is an invaluable medicine for purifying the blood, and is strongly recommended in all cases of Humor, Scurvy, Salt Rheum, Scrofula, Piles, Rheumatism, Billious Complaints, Headaches, Nervous Affections, and that peculiar feeling of depression which all are likely to feel in the Spring. A trial of this medicine will convince all of its virtues.

**"A Wonder of Medical Science,"** may be applied to *Dr. Winter's Balsam of Wild Cherry*. It is nearly half a century since this remarkable remedy was introduced to the public, and yet the immediate and enviable reputation which it gained by its wonderful cures of coughs, colds, whooping cough, sore throat, influenza, consumption, and all bronchial complaints, is to this day fully sustained.

White Pine Compound is safe, sure, *reliable* in all diseases of the Throat, Lungs, and Kidneys It taken at the commencement of either of these complaints, relief is not only certain, but a sure cure will be obtained.

☞ Imitations of Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer are being thrust upon the market in great numbers; do not be deceived by them, but demand Hall's. 1m52

Glu-ene!—The family pet glue pot, and a peerless cement too. Once used, always used. Every family should have it. Only 25 cents. Try it. Glu-ene Man'f'g Co., 24 Water St., Boston. Send in your orders.

# Married.

In Farmington Falls, Nov. 24th, by C. J. Talbot, Esq., Asa Talbot of Wilton, to Abbie Knowlton of Farmington Falls.

In Palermo, Oct. 11th, by Rev. W. J. Gifford, Boswell S. Spratt of Carmel, to Mrs. Jennie B. Clifford of Palermo.

In China, by Wm. Percival, Esq., Emery Stenet to Henrietta H. Parsons, both of China.

# Died.

In this city, 27th ult., Hattie L. Pratt, aged 18 years 5 months.

Nov. 28th, Catharine L., wife of Rev. Thomas Adams of Vassalboro'.

In Saco, Thomas Jenkins, aged 102 years. 10 months.

In Vassalboro', Nov. 16 h, of paralysis, James Rowe, aged 64.

In East Wilton, Nov. 23d, Rose, wife of George H. Farnum.

In Clinton, Nov. 22d, Etta, wife of George E. Fales, of East Wilton.

In Milo, Nov. 16th inst., Stephen Snow, aged 91 years.

In Machias, Nov. 23th, Nathan Longfellow, aged 82 years.

In Braintree, Mass., Nov. 13, Eben Jones, formerly of Augusta aged 76 years.


**DR. SCHENCK**

**Advises Consumptives to go to Florida in Winter.**

Having for the last thirty-five years devoted my whole time and attention to the study of lung diseases and consumption, I feel that I understand fully the course that ought to be pursued to restore a tolerably bad case of diseased lungs to healthy soundness. The first and most important step is, for the patient to avoid taking cold; and the best of all places on this continent for this purpose, in winter, is Florida, well down in the State, where the temperature is regular, and not subject to such variations as in more northern latitudes. Palatka is a point I can recommend. A good hotel is kept there by Peterman. Last winter I saw several persons there whose lungs had been badly diseased, but who, under the healing influence of the climate and my medicines, were getting well. One hundred miles farther down the river is a point which I would prefer to Palatka, as the temperature is more even and the air dry and bracing. Mellonville and Enterprise are located there. I should give a decided preference to Mellonville; it is two miles from river or lake, and it seems almost impossible to take cold there. The tables in Florida might be better, and patients complain at times; but that is a good sign, as it indicates a return of appetite; and, when this is the case, they generally increase in flesh, and then the lungs must heal. Jacksonville, Hibernia, Green Cove, and many other places in various parts of Florida can be safely recommended to consumptives in winter. My reason for saying so are, that patients are less liable to take cold there than where there is a less even temperature; and it is not necessary to say, that, where a consumptive person exposes himself to frequent colds, he is certain to die shortly: therefore my advice is, go well down into the State, out of the reach of prevailing cast winds and fogs. Jacksonville, or almost any other of the localities I have named, will benefit those who are troubled with a torpid liver, a disordered stomach, deranged bowels, sore throat, or cough; but, for those whose lungs are diseased, a more southern point is earnestly recommended.

For fifteen years prior to 1869, I was professionally in New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia every week, where I saw and examined on an average five hundred patients a week. A practice so extensive, embracing every possible phase of lung disease, has enabled me to understand the disease fully; and hence my caution in regard to taking cold. A person may take vast quantities of "Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Seaweed Tonic, and Mandrake Pills," and yet die if he does not avoid taking cold.

In Florida, nearly everybody is using Schenck's Mandrake Pills; for the climate is more likely to produce bilious habits than more northern latitudes. It is a well-established fact, that natives of Florida rarely die of consumption, especially those of the southern part. On the other hand, in New England, one-third at least of the population die of this terrible disease. In the Middle States it does not prevail to so large a degree; still there are many thousands of cases there. What a vast percentage of the life would be saved if consumptives were as easily alarmed in regard to taking fresh colds as they are about scarlet fever, small-pox, &c.! but they are not: they take what they term a little cold, which they are credulous enough to believe will wear off in a few days. They pay no attention to it: and hence it lays the foundation for another and another still, until the lungs are diseased beyond all hope of cure.

My advice to persons whose lungs are affected, even slightly, is to lay in a stock of Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Schenck's Seaweed Tonic, and Schenck's Mandrake Pills, and go to Florida. I recommend these particular medicines, because I am thoroughly acquainted with their action. I know, that, where they are used in strict accordance with my directions, they will do the work that is required. This accomplished, nature will do the rest. The physician who prescribes for cold, cough or night-sweats, and then advises the patient to walk or ride out every day, will be sure to have a corpse on his hands before long.

My plan is, to give my three medicines in accordance with the printed directions, except in some cases where a tree use of the Mandrake Pills is necessary. My object is, to give tone to the stomach,—to set up a good appetite. It is always a good sign when a patient begins to grow hungry; I have hopes of such: With a relish for food, and the gratification of that relish, comes good blood, and with it more flesh, which is closely followed by a healing of the lungs,—then the cough loosens and abates, the creeping chills and clammy night sweats no longer prostrate and annoy, and the patient gets well, provided he avoids taking cold.

Now, there are many consumptives who have not the means to go to Florida. The question may be asked, Is there no hope for such? Certainly there is. My advice to such is, and ever has been, to stay in a warm room during the winter, with a temperature of about seventy degrees, which should be kept regularly at that point by means of a thermometer. Let such a patient take his exercise within the limits of the room by walking up and down as much as his strength will permit, in order to keep up a healthy circulation of the blood. I have cured thousands by this system, and can do so again. Consumption is as easily cured as any other disease, if it is taken in time, and the proper kind of treatment is pursued. The fact stands undisputed on record, that Schenck's Pulmonic Syrup, Mandrake Pills, and Seaweed Tonic have cured very many of what seemed to be hopeless cases of consumption Go where you will, you will be almost certain to find some poor consumptive who has been rescued from the very jaws of death by their use.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## Poetry.

### THE GIFT OF TRITEMIUS.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Tritemius of Herbipolis one day,
While kneeling at the altar's foot to pray,
Alone with God, as was his pious choice,
Heard from beneath a miserable voice—
A sound that seemed of all and things to tell,
As of a lost soul crying out of hell.

Thereat the Abbot rose, the chain whereby
His thoughts went upward broken by that cry,
And looking from the casement, saw below
A wretched woman, with gray hair afloat,
And withered hands stretched up to him, who cried
For alms as one who might not be denied.

She cried: "For the dear love of him who gave
His life for ours, my child from bondage save.
My beautiful, brave-born, chained with slaves
In the Moor's galley, where the sun smit waves
Lap the white walls of Tunis!" "What I can
I give," Tritemius said—"my prayers." "O man
Of God!" she cried, for grief had made her bold,
"Mock me not so, I ask not prayers but gold;
Words cannot serve me, alms alone suffice;
Even while I plead, perchance my first born dies!"

"Woman!" Tritemius answered, "from our door
None go unfed; hence are we always poor.
A single noble is our daily store,
Thou hast our prayers; what can we give thee more?"

"Give me," she said, the silver candlesticks
On either side of the crucifix;
God well may spare them of His errands sped,
Or He can give you golden ones instead."

Then said Tritemius, "Even as thy word,
Woman, so be it; and our gracious Lord,
Who loveth mercy more than sacrifice,
Pardon me if a human soul I prize
Take what thou askest, and redeem thy child."

But his hand trembled as the holy alms
He laid within the beggar's eager palms;
And as she vanished down the linden shade,
He bowed his head and for forgiveness prayed.

So the day passed, and when the twilight came
He rose to find the chapel all a flame,
And, dumb with grateful wonder to behold
Upon the altar candlesticks of gold.

## Our Story-Teller.

### A ROMANCE OF WEST FLANDERS.

I had revisited Bruges after a lapse of many years, and had been wandering for some hours along the banks of the canals, reading the dates on the houses, and giving my full meed of admiration to the Spanish gates reflected with Venetian clearness in the still waters, when the recollection of a certain beautiful vista that I had sketched long since returned to my mind's eye. Where could it have been, and in what direction should I seek it? Who could I ask, and who would understand my description?

I looked up and down the quay; but the whole place was deserted, with the exception of a small knot of ragged children, who were pressing with their tin cans to buy mussels of a very old man whose boat was fastened to the side; two men washing sheepskins in the water, and an old woman who was scouring a brass milk-ewer on the low parapet-wall of the canal. To ask any question in Flemish was utterly beyond my power, and it was extremely improbable that this woman would be able to speak French. Should I try or not? It was perhaps worth while; for, notwithstanding her servile employment and the poverty of her dress, she had that unmistakable and peculiar look about her which tells of better days long passed. Her dark hair, only slightly tinged with grey, was still abundant; and, though evidently advanced in years, she possessed the remains of former beauty.

At the first words of my address, she replied, in very tolerable English, that she could not speak French, but would be happy, in my own language, to give me any information in her power. Struck by her appearance and manner, my curiosity prompted me to ask a few questions, to which she replied without hesitation; and the conversation resulted in my obtaining a knowledge of the following curious history. As much of my information was obtained from other sources, in addition to her own account, I will endeavor to condense the matter, and, as the children say, "begin from the beginning."

There was living, toward the close of the last century, in a then out-of-the-way part of Yorkshire, a certain squire, to whom I may give the name of Rushton. The squire had two sons, the elder of whom lived at the hall with his parents, hunting, shooting and drinking, as became his position. The second son very early received a pair of colors; and when he joined his regiment, at the age of fifteen, was already a captain. He married early—an example which his elder brother seemed little inclined to follow—and became the father of several children. Having good interest, his military advancement was above the average; and toward the end of the Peninsula war he was in command of his regiment, with a fair prospect of being early on the list of generals.

The old Squire had now been dead some years; and Colonel Rushton was daily expecting an order to sail for Canada, when he received a summons by express, requiring his immediate presence in Yorkshire, his brother having been thrown from his horse, and was not expected to live. The Colonel set off on the great north road as fast as a light chaise and four horses could take him; arrived just in time to take a last farewell of his brother; and in a few hours found himself master of the property and a clear four thousand a year. The funeral over, he returned for a short time to London, where he immediately took steps to obtain an unattached colonelcy, and giving up active service, removed with his whole establishment into Yorkshire.

His family consisted of three sons and two daughters, all handsome and well-grown. His wife, who had been a very pretty girl, was now a good-looking middle-aged woman, with no great pretensions to refinement, but who had been knocked about the world quite enough to make her appreciate most thoroughly the good things to which she was entitled in her present advanced position. Their eldest son was just eighteen years old, and had recently been appointed to an ensigncy in his father's regiment. The second was intended for the bar; and the third, who was barely twelve years old, was already a midshipman in the royal navy. The two daughters, who followed the second son in age, were lively, pleasant girls, whose airs and graces made no small impression on the unoccupied hearts of the untravelled Yorkshire Squires. Mrs. Rushton was fond of her girls; but her prime favorite was William, the second boy, whereas Frank, the eldest, was the pride and joy of the good colonel's heart. Handsome, lively and thoughtless, though free from any vicious inclinations, the removal of his father from the command of the regiment was a serious loss to him. His was one of those easy natures which find it extremely difficult to say "no," and he was naturally exposed to many more temptations than he had met with while under his parent's constant supervision. Since the death of his uncle, his allowance had been considerably increased; but with enlarged means came an additional love of spending, and at the period of Napoleon's exile to Elba, his father had already twice paid his debts. These were not very large, certainly, but sufficiently so for Mrs. Rushton to contrast his conduct unfavorably with that of his brother William; and she made no hesitation in urging the difference, whenever she found an opportunity for doing so.

The property was not entailed, and although she would have been unwilling to see Frank entirely passed over, she determined to use her best endeavors to secure something more than a younger child's portion for her favorite son. Time, however, slipped away, and she seemed to make no great impression; the colonel's love for his eldest son remained unabated, and his periodical visits to Yorkshire were invariably signalized by a succession of entertainments, not only at Rushton Hall, but also in the neighboring houses; the handsome young heir being an object of almost equal interest to the mothers and daughters, many of whom would gladly have secured him for their own. Hitherto he had escaped their blandishments; a few transient flirtations—at which the worthy colonel chuckled, saying Frank was too wary a bird to be caught with chaff—had as yet been the sum and substance of his love affairs. His father would clap him on the back, and (not sparing a round oath or two—the fashion of his day) say:—

"Don't be in a hurry, Franky, my man; quite time enough to marry when you get your majority. I began too soon, and it's the devil going about with a wife and children from one quarter to another. No; if you marry you must give up the army, and I don't want you to leave the service yet, Frank."

"Neither do I, sir," answered the youngster. I should be very sorry; besides, I should like to see a little active service before I settle; not that there's much chance of that now, I'm afraid."

"It does not look like it, certainly; and what numbers of men of my standing are selling out in every Gazette! But one never knows what is going to happen; they may find themselves in the wrong yet."

"Very true, sir; but all the knowing ones say that there will be nothing done in Europe for some years to come. There's India, to be sure, but I don't much care to go there; no doubt there are splendid appointments to be had, but John Company's servants get them all; the king's officers have no chance against them."

"No, no, Frank, you mustn't think of India; it's a devil of a way off. I can't afford to let you go there, and come back without a liver. I'll tell you what it is, my boy," said the colonel, while an unwonted moisture glistened in his eyes, "if it wasn't for the service, and the wish to see you an honor to it, I would have you at home for good; I feel like another man when you are with me, Frank."

"God bless you, sir!" answered the boy. "You've never said a hard word to me in your life, though I've often deserved it, and I will try to be an honor to the service, and to you, too."

Poor lad! he meant what he said; we shall see how far he succeeded. Frank Rushton was just twenty-three, and well up among the lieutenants, when the astounding intelligence reached England of the Emperor's escape from Elba, and his gigantic operations for renewing the war. Colonel Rushton's old regiment was among the first ordered to embark for Belgium; and, without even the time to take leave of his family, Frank found himself hurried forward to join the Duke of Wellington's headquarters.

With what mixed feelings of pride and anxiety did Colonel Rushton receive the news of his departure. He had become very subject to gout, and was suffering from a sharp attack at the time, or he would have hastened to London to take a last look at his boy; but he could do no more than to write him the most encouraging letters, as did also Mrs. Rushton, who, now that her son was in actual danger, forgot to find fault with him in her present fear for his safety. William Rushton was the only member of his family who personally took leave of him. This young man was a specimen of that not very agreeable character, "an old head on young shoulders"; and however much such a combination may be praised and admired, I cannot but express my humble opinion that it is more graceful, as well as more in accordance with nature, that the head and shoulders should keep pace with each other. William's certainly did not; and his old head was constantly engaged in forming plans for his own advantage. He had the art to make, not only his mother, but his father also, believe in his perfect disinterestedness; and nothing could be more plausible than the manner in which he extolled his brother's spirit and gallantry, prophesying a happy return, and dwelling on the delight they should all feel when the time arrived to welcome him back. Perhaps he scarcely knew himself how ardently he hoped that some sabre cut or cannon shot might prevent the return he pretended to desire with so much ardor.

The sisters were both married and removed to a distance; they each loved their eldest brother best, but neither of them entertained the remotest suspicion of William's feelings. The only one who thoroughly read the selfishness of his heart was Edmund, the sailor boy, and he was far away, stationed in the Pacific, with no likelihood of returning to England for some years to come.

At length the tremenduous conflict of Waterloo took place, in which it is sufficient to say that Frank Rushton bore his part bravely, as became his father's son; that he was slightly wounded at Hougoumont, and very severely in the last charge at Waterloo. With his own hands he bound his scarf tightly round his wounded thigh, and then waited for many hours in pain and agonized thirst before the ambulance came to his relief, when, after his wounds had been carefully dressed, he found the repose he so much needed.

He had scarcely been settled in his bed before he implored permission to be allowed to write to his father. This the regimental surgeon positively refused, though he was too much occupied to remain and see that his orders were obeyed; and Frank, finding himself alone with the woman of the house, managed to bribe her assistance, and scribbled off a few lines full of affection and hopefulness, scarcely alluding to his wounds, of which, for his father's sake, he made as light as possible.

Like water in the parched wilderness was this letter to both his parents, but most of all to the worthy colonel. Many officers of the regiment had been killed; Frank went into action as lieutenant, and came out in command of his company. In the very same gazette with his son's name appeared his own, coupled with his promotion to the rank of major-general; but of what avail was this object of his ambition to him now, when he read that Francis Rushton had been severely wounded? He was on the point of sending William off to assist in attending his brother, when the letter reached him which had so powerful an effect in allaying his fears. There could not be so very much the matter when the dear boy had the power of writing so steadily. Little did the loving father imagine by how strong and painful an effort that steadiness had been obtained; perhaps, had he known all, the poor young fellow's future life might have been very different.

William's departure was, consequently, delayed; and as Frank was never much of a correspondent, no great surprise was expressed when a fortnight elapsed before they heard again; at the end of which time the general received another short note. He fancied the writing not so good as usual; but Frank complained of his pen, and it might be that; at all events, he said he was going on well, and hoped soon to move his quarters to Brugge, when he should be so much the nearer home. But what agonies of suffering he had endured during this last fortnight! how he had longed for the comfort of his father's presence! and what an effort this short letter had cost him! He was now slightly improving; and Major Cooper, one of his brother officers, who dearly loved the honest and brave young fellow, was very anxious to remove him to Bruges, where several members of his own family had taken a house, in order to be near the army. He had been a most indefatigable nurse, and was very unwilling to leave his charge.

At length—though reluctantly—the surgeon gave permission that he should be removed by easy stages, a task which his friend readily undertook; and in less than a week he was established at the house of Peter Van Houtte, a small cloth merchant in the neighborhood of the Wednesday market, while his friend Cooper joined his mother and sisters in a handsome house which they occupied on the adjoining quai.

It were needless to say how strongly the sympathies of all classes in Belgium were enlisted in favor of their English allies. Peter Van Houtte was no exception to the rule; he would have thought no exertion too great that he might be called on to make for his wounded guest; and as Mrs. Cooper very naturally required her son to devote the greater part of his time to his society, the task of nursing Frank during his slow recovery devolved principally upon Peter and his pretty daughter Marie, a damsel who had scarcely passed her sixteenth summer.

Is there anything surprising in the result? It was the "old, old story," and Frank could not but say with Othello—

"She loved me for the dangers I had passed,
And I loved her that she did pity them."

Marie's dimpled hand smoothed his pillow and supported his aching head far more tenderly than any other hands could have done; while her soft, velvet eyes looked into his with such intense pity and commiseration, that the man must be composed of stern stuff who could escape unwounded from their gentle artillery.

Frank was perforce confined to his bed; and during so many idle hours, what better employment than to teach Marie English? The first words she could pronounce correctly were, "I love you"; and her preceptor seemed never weary of hearing her repeat them. During the fluctuation of his recovery, her presence seemed hourly more necessary even to his very existence; and it was upon her shoulder that he leaned when, with tottering steps, he first crept out into the small garden at the back of her father's house.

Of all these proceedings Peter Van Houtte appeared to take no notice; either he was utterly indifferent; or, which is more probable, he hoped great things from the young English captain's attachment to his daughter. Frank, meanwhile, kept up a frequent correspondence with his father, but made no allusion to Marie, merely mentioning that he was lodged in the house of a Flemish merchant—so he chose to translate the word *marchand*—and that the family had been most kind to him. Meanwhile, his passion for the pure and innocent Flemish maiden was daily and hourly increasing. How could he ever repay Marie's devoted care and attention? He could see but one method, and that was to make her his wife. What wonderful castles he built on this foundation! How charmed, how astonished she would be at the sight of the fine old hall! And though he could not delude himself into thinking her his equal in worldly position, he hoped that when once his parents, and particularly his father, had seen the choice of his heart, they would be perfectly satisfied. He persuaded himself that but for her care he must have died (what a claim upon his parent's gratitude!), and that it was quite impossible he could live without her. He could not disobey his father; that was out of the question: but, for fear he should be tempted to do so, he determined to say nothing of his intention until it was too late to prevent him, when he flattered himself that, after a little growling and grumbling, all would come right.

His friend, Major Cooper, who was some six years older, felt considerable vexation on his return from Brussels, when he found the length to which the intimacy had proceeded; but the remonstrances which he ventured to make on the subject were ill-received. He entertained a great feeling of respect for his former colonel, and was debating in his own mind whether he should not write to him, warning him of the entanglement into which his son had fallen, and begging him to lose no time in putting a stop to it, when he was accosted by Frank's servant, an intelligent young north-countryman, who told him that, "not liking the looks of things," he had written privately to "Mr. William," who had promised to "come over promiscuous-like," and that he was expecting him every day. Reassured by this information, Cooper gave up his intention of writing, and for the next few days saw little of Frank, who was now sufficiently recovered to spend each day many hours of the lovely autumn weather in the open air, and whether in his walks to the ramparts or drives in the Boccame wood, he was invariably accompanied by his beloved Marie.

On the fourth day after Major Cooper's return, as he was passing Van Houtte's shop, he saw Frank's servant standing at the door, and inquired if his master were at home.

"No, sir," answered poor Tom, with a very troubled expression on his countenance; "the captain went out driving earlier than usual, and has never come back yet."

"He has not gone alone, I suppose?"

"Oh dear no, sir! Miss Mary was with him—she always is, sir; but they've never been away so long as this before."

"Perhaps they have gone to Blenkenberght to have a look at the sea,"

"Maybe so, sir; they have been there already once or twice, but always came back to dinner till to-day."

"Well, Tom, I shall be at home all this evening. Look in, will you, and tell me when they return?"

Tom promised, and kept his word; but it was late in the evening when he entered, with a very pale and scared face, to inform Major Cooper that his master was married. Yes; it was true. Poor, foolish, thoughtless Frank, listening only to the voice of his passion, had prevailed upon Marie to accompany him to Ghent, where they were united both by the Catholic and Protestant forms. They posted over as rapidly as possible, having hired a carriage, the owner of which accompanied them, and he had just returned, bearing a letter for Tom, informing him of the event, and desiring him to join his master on the morrow, bringing with him certain properties belonging to the newly-married couple.

"Where is her father?" exclaimed the major, starting up in great agitation. "I must see him immediately."

"You can't do that, sir, for Mr. Van Hoot has been away from home for the last two days."

"The old rascal! I should not be the least surprised if he had settled it all."

And this proved to have been the case. Van Houtte had taken the dilligence to Ghent two days before the departure of the lovers, where he had made every necessary arrangement. There was no obstacle to the marriage—Frank was of age, Marie wholly dependent upon her father; and the ceremony took place in the presence and with the full consent of this, her only surviving parent; so that everything was *en regle*.

Major Cooper reproached himself bitterly for what had taken place. Even if he had written to General Rushton, according to his first intention, his letter must have arrived too late; but, at all events, his conscience would then have felt somewhat easier. Now all the blame lay with him; he had been the means of bringing Frank to Bruges; had thrown him into the uninterrupted society of a most lovely and attractive girl, and had left him without watch or ward. How would the parents receive this distressing news? He remembered well the generous, warm-hearted Colonel's love for his handsome first-born. But would that love be sufficient to counteract the pride of birth and station, together with the bitterness of wounded feeling?

Major Cooper was not a man to shrink from any duty, however painful; and he resolved to seek out Frank on the morrow; and then, if on mature consideration they both considered it best, he would set aside all other engagements and proceed at once to Yorkshire, in order to break the intelligence to General and Mrs. Rushton. He felt rather surprised at the non-appearance of William, wondering whether he had given the General any hint of his brother's danger, and at length decided upon writing to him at his chambers in the Temple before retiring to rest. In this letter he informed him with many self-reproaches of the event that had taken place, and begged him to hold himself in readiness to accompany him to Rushton Hall, when they would use their joint endeavors to obtain Frank's pardon.

Having written his missive, and sent it to the *post aux lettres*, he felt somewhat easier in his mind, though he was not aware that several days must elapse before he could possibly receive an answer; and in the meantime his first duty must be to look after Frank. Mrs. Cooper, having listened to her son's report of the catastrophe, was quite ready to sympathise with him in his dilemma. She would not have liked such a thing to happen to one of her own boys, and was a little troubled in mind when she remembered how often she had carried Robert off when he had pleaded for permission to remain with his wounded friend. So Major Cooper had no difficulty in obtaining leave of absence from the maternal headquarters, and having secured his place by the diligence, he started for Ghent the following morning.

Of course he found Frank on the pinnacle of happiness, unwilling to hear of doubts or difficulties, but charmed, notwithstanding, that his friend was willing to act as intercessor. Major Cooper remained at Ghent for the rest of the day, and next morning they all returned to Bruges to await the reply which might shortly be expected from William Rushton.

Yet day after day passed on, and when no letter arrived, after allowing the fullest margin for contrary winds and other causes of delay, both Frank and his ally began to grow seriously alarmed. They besieged the post-office on those days of the week when the foreign mails arrived, and never failed to be on the spot when the diligences drew up; but all to no purpose. At length, when they had nearly given up hope, Major Cooper received the following epistle direct from Rushton Hall:

MY DEAR SIR:—Your letter containing the sad intelligence of my misguided brother's disgraceful marriage followed me to this place. I received it when we were assembled at breakfast, and an unavoidable exclamation of horror escaped me, which led to my father's insisting upon knowing the cause. I grieve to say that the effect upon him has been most serious. The gout flew to his stomach, and for many days his life was in considerable danger. His health is now partly re-established, but the physicians insist upon the most perfect tranquility, and will not even allow my brother's name to be mentioned before him; indeed, my poor father himself called out, "Don't talk to me of the ungrateful boy!" You may, however, assure Francis that if I see any symptom of relenting I will not lose the opportunity of pleading his cause; in the meantime beg him not to write to my father, as it would only be the means of keeping up the irritation. Believe me, dear sir, sincerely yours,

WILLIAM RUSHTON.

The two friends read the letter together, while bitter were the tears of grief and mortification which it cost poor Frank. There was a tone of superiority in the wording which wounded him cruelly; but even that was nothing to the disgrace of feeling himself to be, for the first time in his life, on bad terms with his father, and without any immediate hopes of reconciliation. Had it been possible, how willingly would he have undone the work of the last few weeks! His love for Marie was as yet unabated, but the glamour was gone; for what companionship could there be between an educated English gentleman and the daughter of a Flemish shop-keeper, ignorant of any language besides her own semi-barbarous one, and whose sole accomplishment consisted in a little lace-making? Frank now wrote to his mother a letter that might have moved the hardest heart. He implored permission to be allowed to see his father, that he might in person entreat forgiveness for a fault of which he now saw the extent, and concluded by begging her to intercede for him. This letter appears never to have reached her.

William Rushton had spoken nothing but the truth when he described his father's illness, and stated that it had been occasioned by the intelligence conveyed in Major Cooper's letter; but he took care not to add that he had made the exclamation purposely to attract the general's attention, nor did he mention the fact, either then or afterward, that when the first burst of his indignation had subsided, General Rushton looked each day wistfully into the post-bag, evidently hoping for the penitent letter which his son had been forbidden to write.

About six weeks later Frank received another letter from William written on black-edged paper, and containing the terrible announcement of his father's death! The letter was brief and cold, advising his brother's immediate return to England if he wished to be present at the funeral and the opening of the will. Here, then, was a miserable ending to all his hopes of a reconciliation. Never again in this world should he behold the kind face of the father toward whom he had acted so undutiful a part.

"I have killed him," moaned poor Frank in the agony of his feelings, "and he has died without forgiving me."

"You cannot be sure of that," answered his friend Cooper. "Follow your brother's advice, and when you see your mother you may perhaps gain some comforting assurance as to your father's feeling toward you. Lose no time, Frank, but go at once; you know we leave for England next week, but on your return from Yorkshire, mind you come and see me at my mother's house in Manchester square.

Frank acted upon his friend's recommendation; and two hours later bidding farewell to his pretty Marie, he took his place in the Malle Poste, and made the best of his way to England, travelling day and night until he reached the Hall, when he was ushered into the presence of his mother. With a faint scream she held out her arms exclaiming,—

"O, Frank! why did you not come sooner?"

The poor boy laid his head upon her bosom, and burst into a flood of tears. She was startled at the change in his appearance, and well might she be so. Still weak from the effects of his wounds, and overfatigued with his lengthened journey, his face was perfectly colorless, and his eyes had lost their brilliant vivacity, while his hands shook as if in an ague fit. All her maternal feelings were aroused; she insisted upon his instantly going to bed, brought him a hot posset, and sat by his pillow till he fell asleep, soothed by her kind expressions, and above all by the assurance that nearly the last words his father uttered were "God bless poor Frank!"

The next day was appointed for the funeral, and Frank was sufficiently recovered to attend it. His mother still continued her kind behavior toward him; but William, who looked in once or twice, appeared peculiarly stiff and constrained. His two sisters, with their husbands, were absent from England; one was in Italy, the other at Paris, so that the small party at the hall consisted only of the widow and her two elder sons.

When the mournful ceremony was over, the two young men seated themselves on each side of their mother, while the family solicitor prepared to read the will, the contents of which, when divested of their legal phraseology, were as follows: To his wife he bequeathed a jointure of eight hundred a year, with sufficient ready money to furnish a house in Bath, Cheltenham or any other place she might select. He left also £10,000 to each of his daughters, and the like sum to his youngest son, Edmund. After a momentary pause, the lawyer read the remaining portion which devised one hundred a year for life to his eldest son, Francis, and the whole of his estates and other property to his second son, William.

Here was, indeed, a terribly unexpected blow for poor Frank, and to Mrs. Rushton herself the intelligence seemed scarcely less surprising.

"What does this mean?" she exclaimed, "and why was I never told when this alteration was made? Tell me at once, William; I insist upon knowing."

"Mother," he replied, "this will was executed a month ago. My father wished to add another two hundred a year to your settlement, which, you must be aware, was six hundred; and as for the rest, no one can deny that he had good cause for acting as he did. At any rate, he had it in his power to dispose of the property in whatever manner he thought best. He chose to leave it to me, and I should not advise any one to attempt to deprive me of it."

This last expression was addressed, with a look of insolent triumph, to his unhappy brother.

"I shall not attempt it," was the mournful answer. "I have brought the ruin on myself, and must suffer for it. God have mercy on me! It is ruin; I owe about four hundred pounds,—how shall I ever get it paid?"

"There is a provision for that, sir," said the lawyer, who still held the will in his hand, "as the concluding words of this testament provide, that any debts owing by Mrs. Rushton, or other members of the general's family, at the time of his death, shall be liquidated out of the proceeds of the estate within twelve calendar months from the time of the opening the will; and each one of the persons mentioned therein to receive the sum of fifty pounds for the purchase of mourning. So, madam, if Mr. Francis will favor me with a list of his debts, I will undertake to settle them without loss of time. I believe, Mr. Rushton," he added, turning to William, "I am exactly following your orders in saying this?"

"You are quite right; these debts shall be paid; but remember it is the last time."

"I shall never ask you for anything," replied poor Frank. "Good-bye, mother; the sooner I am away the better. Thank you for the kindness you have shown me; and God forgive you, William, if you have taken any unfair advantage of me!"

William was commencing a blustering answer; but his mother peremptorily stopped him, insisting that Frank had suffered quite enough, and must be allowed to go away in peace. Half an hour later he quitted the hall, having taken a very sad but affectionate leave of his mother; and William, who carefully kept out of sight, deputed the attorney to pay him his £50. Mrs. Rushton also gave him a seal-ring that had belonged to his father; and, thus slenderly provided for, the disinherited heir left the home of his forefathers for the last time, with the miserable prospect before him of exile, poverty and bodily suffering.

His first step on reaching London was to repair, according to their previous arrangement, to the house of his friend's mother; but the family had not yet arrived. The next few days were fully occupied in the task of making out the amount of his debts, which he despatched under cover to his mother. This done, he endeavored to arrange his plans for the future, and only waited Major Cooper's arrival in order to carry them into effect. He would not quit the army (with a tightness at his heart he recalled his father's wishes on the subject), but, as his wounds were still troublesome, he would go upon half-pay, hoping that a few months of perfect rest would enable him once more to join his regiment. No, not the same, that he felt would be impossible, but some other, where his name was unknown; and who could tell but that some chance might eventually give him his majority? Marie must know how dear the possession of her had cost him, but he would say as little as possible on the subject; truly he was a generous young fellow, and deserved a better fate. Then he thought the best thing for them would be to live on at Bruges for the present; the old town was a cheap place of residence, and he would devote himself to the task of educating his young wife, in order that, when he should once more go upon full pay, he might not have cause to blush for her ignorance. He hoped, also, that his sisters might visit them, or even ask them to their houses; he must spare no pains to insure the certainty of her making a good impression, not only by her beauty, which was beyond criticism, but also by her manners and conversation.

It was with a feeling of the deepest commiseration that Major Cooper listened to this tale of woe, on the occasion of his first meeting with his young friend; but what could he do? Sympathy he might offer, but pecuniary assistance was out of the question, being himself a younger son with but little beyond his pay. Besides this, he knew that Frank was of a spirited and independent nature, who would work for his bread if it lay in his power, but who, beyond that, would be indebted to no man.

The poor young fellow endeavored to speak hopefully, though his heart was very full. When his health should be re-established, might he not get some military appointment?—a barrack-mastership, or something of that kind? Alas, he had yet to learn many a bitter lesson of hope deferred and mortifying humiliation. One advantage Major Cooper was able to obtain for him, which was a small pension for his wounds; and having secured this and concluded his arrangements at the Horse Guards, there was nothing further to detain him in London, so that he once more turned his face in the direction of the old city of Bruges, where Marie and her father were waiting his return, full of anticipations of future wealth and greatness.

It was no small addition to Frank's trial that he found himself under the necessity of crushing these exalted hopes: but he was scarcely prepared for the effect which his communication produced. Marie certainly bore it with angelic sweetness. She was far too young to appreciate the calamity in its full extent; and so long as her noble young husband was spared to her, she cared for little else. Besides, as she thought, with 5000 francs a year, they should have wealth and to spare. But old Van Houtte beheld the matter in a very different light, appearing to consider himself personally aggrieved, and making himself altogether so unpleasant that Frank took Marie for a few days to Ostend, in order to get out of his way. The fact was that old Peter had made what our Gallic neighbors call *des mauvaises affaires*, and had looked to his rich English son-in-law to set him to rights; this hope must now be abandoned, and he was naturally very indignant in consequence.

But we must not linger over this period of our history; during which time Frank, as we before have hinted, made many unsuccessful attempts to obtain employment. The wound in his thigh, which had caused a contraction of sinews, forbade any present hope of his going on full pay; and at length, in the year 1819, finding it grow worse instead of better, he sold his commission, and invested eight hundred pounds of the money he thus realized for the benefit of his wife; and with the remainder he consented, though very unwillingly, to prop up Peter Van Houtte's failing fortunes. During this period he saw but very little of his family. If William visited the Continent, he kept aloof from him; his mother had settled at Leamington, and never left England; while his two sisters consented occasionally to remain for a few days in Calais, at which times he would visit them accompanied by Marie, whom they treated with kindly condescension. Thus the whole family accepted the fact of his humiliation and William's advancement as a settled thing, and he was gradually allowed to slip altogether out of their world.

At the time when he finally quitted the army his family consisted of two children, a boy and a girl, an addition to whose number was expected early the following year; but before that time arrived, Frank's wound broke out afresh. Perhaps with the aid of first rate skill he might have recovered not only his health, but also the perfect use of his limb. Good advice was, however, an impossibility; it was not to be found in Bruges, and on an income of £160 how could it be obtained?

A second boy was born in the spring, and, before the harvest was over the young and handsome Frank Rushton was laid in the Protestant corner of the crowded cemetery. The Christian patience with which he bore his severe sufferings, together with his amiable temper and exemplary conduct, had endeared him to many of the English residents, who vied with each other in their attentions to him during his last illness, and in kind offices to the young widow, who was scarcely yet twenty-three years of age. With Frank Rushton expired the annuity paid by his brother, as well as the pension for his wounds; and having sold his commission, Marie could claim nothing as an officer's widow. Her whole means of subsistence for herself and three children amounted to £10 a year, and where could she procure assistance? Major Cooper had died in India, about twelve months before his friend Rushton; all her appeals to William were utterly unsuccessful; and though Mrs. Rushton now and then sent her a five pound note, it was always under protest, and ere long even these scanty supplies failed entirely.

Years passed on, while trouble and misfortune never ceased to dog poor Marie's footsteps. Her father died, and she would have endeavored to carry on the humble business; but his affairs were found to be in such inextricable confusion, that the *huissiers* entered into possession, and when everything was sold, a few hundred francs were all that remained as Marie's portion. Still she bravely struggled on, endeavoring to support herself and her children, and with her humble means to push them forward in life. Her elder son went to sea as a "Billy boy," and was lost in his fourth voyage, the vessel being never heard of again. The daughter who married a *facteur*, or letter-carrier, died early, leaving no children; and the second son, who was an employe in the Octroi, lived with his mother until he married, at the age of thirty-five. Three years later he was accidentally shot, and his wife, whose second confinement was hourly expected, was so overwhelmed by the shock, that she died in giving birth to a daughter, leaving her two children totally dependent on their grandmother. Marie received the little orphans with all the tenderness of her loving nature; and at the time when I first met her they had been living under her care for eight years, Leopold being ten years old, and his little sister Gertrude two years younger.

Seeing me much interested in her story of which she at first only gave me an outline, she begged me to come and see the children, which I did on that and several successive days, and found them both handsome and intelligent, bearing the strongest evidence of their Saxon origin in their glorious blue eyes and wavy golden hair. They were, perhaps, a little too quiet in manner, as is so frequently the case with children brought up exclusively with elderly persons; but, at the same time, they gave me the impression of being perfectly healthy and happy.

And now comes the most singular part of my romance. Three months after this time I was travelling in the midland counties, and waiting with some impatience for the appearance of the train on the branch line, which, as usual was past its time. Despairing of finding anything fresh in the columns of the Times, which I had looked over again and again, I turned to the first page, and began reading the advertisements. In the second column I found the following, which quickly riveted my attention:—

NEAREST OF KIN.—Any person or persons claiming relationship with the late Admiral Rushton, of Rushton Hall, in the County of York, are requested to forward their claims to Dash & Sons, solicitors, of Stroke, in the said county.

Here was a startling announcement; and all thoughts of the lagging train were forgotten in the interest it excited; even when seated in the carriage I could think of nothing else. Should I write to Mr. Dash? No, I thought not. I was now going to spend a few days at a friend's house, after which my time would be at my own disposal. I would go to Stroke myself and lay the case before the solicitors.

This determination I carried into effect, and had the satisfaction of finding Mr. Dash both a very sensible and gentlemanlike man. Several persons had already put in their claims; but when he had heard my story, he made no hesitation in saying that, if no link should be found wanting, Marie's grandson must be the undoubted heir. It was from him that I gained much of the information which I have incorporated in this story. He told me that William Rushton had married, and at his death was succeeded in the property by an only daughter—a deformed young woman, who had rejected all offers of marriage, from the conviction that her suitors could only be attracted by her wealth. She left the estate to her uncle Edmund—Admiral Rushton, who, after a very wandering life, had returned to England a confirmed old bachelor. He had never ceased to regret the banishment and death of his eldest brother, which took place during his absence in the Pacific; and the fact of this brother having left a family of children had been carefully concealed from him by William. He had lately died intestate; in consequence of which Mr. Dash had inserted the advertisement that had led to my present visit to Yorkshire.

Mr. Dash proposed to send one of his sons, who was in partnership with him, to Bruges, in order to investigate the case, and to collect the proofs of the marriage of Marie and her younger son. Everything was proved beyond a doubt; and the decision being given in her favor, I had the happiness of escorting them into Yorkshire.

With what pleasure I witnessed the sober happiness of Marie and the wild delight of the two children at the aspect of their future home, comprising the park, with its noble trees and running stream, the house and pictures, the plate and furniture! Marie's satisfaction was tinged with a sharp dash of sorrow when she now, for the first time realized at how great a sacrifice her marriage had been purchased. Guardians were considered to be necessary, and Mrs. Rushton earnestly begged me to accept the office. I agreed, on the condition that Mr. Dash—for whom I entertained the highest respect—should be joined with me in the trust. We provided a governess for Gertrude, and Mr. Wilson, the curate of the parish, prepared Leopold for Harrow. All this occurred five years ago. Our boy has now been at school for nearly four years, and gives the fullest promise of becoming an honor to his country and the prop and stay of his sister, whom he tenderly loves—while both are the blessing and pride of their devoted graudmother's declining years.—*Tinsley's Magazine*


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